

Hafa Adai!

Revised budget in the works. **PAGE 2**

Oleai school to conduct tsunami drill on June 3. **PAGE 9**

75¢

Saipan Tribune

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THURSDAY MAY 27, 2021

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Three rescued from sinking boat



The container vessel, *APL Saipan*, as it arrives at the Port of Saipan on Tuesday, eight hours late after taking part in the rescue of the three fishermen. Photo taken by licensed commercial drone pilot BJ Eddy. Check out his YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/mydiGis7xwY>.

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three men clinging to the part of their capsized boat that was still above the waterline were saved Tuesday morning, with the patrol boat of the Department of Public Safety Boating Safety Section arriving in time to pluck the three men from their sinking boat.

See **BOAT** on **Page 4**

Food stamp benefits for 4,700 households out next week

» **NAP closed for P-EBT application submissions from June 1-7**
» **All NAP staffs fully vaccinated as of May 17, 2021**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Community & Culture Affairs' Nutrition Assistance Program will start distributing next week NAP benefits, or food stamps, to approximately 4,700 households in the CNMI.

NAP administrator Walter
See **FOOD STAMP**
on **Page 4**

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:30pm, May 26, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population
Fully Vaccinated: **54%**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	21,605
Fully Vaccinated:	19,409
Moderna	
Initiated:	3,785
Fully Vaccinated:	2,939
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	258

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,141	2	8,143
Recovered	7,930	26	7,956
Active	46	2	48
Deaths	139	0	139
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	164,101		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	181	0	181
Traced via Travel Screening	145	0	145
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	70		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

FOR 2ND QUARTER OF FISCAL YEAR

Revenue collection was \$21.59M or 2.56% more than forecasted amount due to PUA

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The overall revenue collections in the second quarter of fiscal year 2021 was \$21,590,135, which is 2.56% more than the forecasted amount of \$21,051,941, according to Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig in a report to the Legislature.

In his financial information

SHORT TAKE

■ **DPS' appropriation was \$1.23M but actual expenditure was \$2.83M—an increase of 130% due to COVID-19 response**

for second quarter of FY 2021 with an ending report date of March 31, 2021, Atalig attributed the \$538,194 increase mainly to the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance that taxpayers had received.

The Northern Marianas
See **REVENUE** on **Page 4**

Illicit drugs allegedly getting inside DOC

» **100% of DOC officers vaccinated for COVID, 95% of inmates vaccinated**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Corrections Commissioner Wally Villagomez asked for a private meeting with Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) after the lawmaker asked him about reports that illegal drugs are being snuck

See **ILLICIT** on **Page 4**

Department of Corrections Commissioner Wally Villagomez.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



INSIDE



BUSINESS

Acting Commerce chief Edward Deleon Guerrero wants to change people's perceptions.

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ENVIRONMENT

Learn from the Coastal Resources Management how to build your own rain garden at home.

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LIFE & STYLE

Angelina Jolie criticizes a judge who is deciding on child custody in her divorce with Brad Pitt.

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Local

Revised budget in the works

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig said they are working on a revised government budget for next fiscal year to be submitted to the Legislature on or before July 1, 2021.

In response to inquiry about budget submission during a radio press briefing last Friday, Atalig said they are look-

ing at their current revenues and analyzing the impacts of the \$481.9-million American Rescue Plan Act money that's already been remitted to the

CNMI and how that plays into their current revenue projection.

"We are going to submit the revised budget based on re-

porting what we're doing with ARPA [funding] and how it's subsidizing the government's operations," Atalig said.

He said they will be submitting the revised budget before the July 1 deadline.

House of the Representa-

tives Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) expects the House to pass a balanced budget for next fiscal year by first week of July.

Manglona also disclosed that they will be proposing

how the ARPA monies should be spent to include additional requests from agencies.

The committee has already gone through budget hearings with the municipalities.

Last April, Torres submitted a proposed budget that identifies a gross budget of \$144.84 million, with only over \$98 million left for appropriation after deducting debt service payments and NMI Settlement Fund obligations.

Sablan wants Torres, Cui summoned to oversight hearing

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) believes the House of Representatives Committee on Gaming should summon Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Imperial Pacific International Holdings Limited board chair Cui Li Jie to testify at a legislative oversight hearing on the governance, financial suitability and compliance failures of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

That will ultimately be up to the committee members to decide in a vote, said Sablan, who is the committee's

vice chairperson, in response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry about the oversight hearing.

The lawmaker said Wednesday she would defer to Committee on Gaming chair Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) to provide more detailed updates about the hearing. She, however, stated that Propst has issued letters pursuant to the investigative authority of legislative committees, requesting certain records by particular deadlines.

Sablan said more letters are forthcoming this week.

She said they expect hearings to be held in June 2021.

The lawmaker said the list of witnesses they will be summoning to testify should be finalized once the committee has received and reviewed the requested records.

"We should all take very, very seriously the federal court's findings that IPI was complicit in a human trafficking and forced labor scheme, and that unsafe and unlawful conditions persisted even after IPI was on notice that workers had suffered serious injuries at the construction site, workers were not being paid, and federal investigations were underway," Sablan said.

She noted that IPI is now

barred from the H2B worker program and, as she understands it, also from the Commonwealth-Only Transitional Worker program.

As it stands, "how will they ever finish the Garapan project, let alone the remaining development phases they promised in the casino license agreement?" Sablan asked.

Last December, U.S. Department of Labor WHD assistant director Patrick Candoleta informed IPI that because of IPI's failure to timely respond to the Oct. 23, 2020, notice of debarment issued by U.S. Labor, IPI is debarred from receiving H-2B certifications for a period of five years from Nov. 22, 2020.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

4.3-magnitude quake in Marianas region

At 11:11am on May 26, 2021, a report of a 4.3-magnitude earthquake occurred at 21.521°N 143.254°E in the Marianas region. Currently there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. **(PR)**

CHamoru commission meeting set

The *Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'na'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Tao-tao Tâno'* (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its first June monthly virtual meeting on June 3, 2021, Thursday, from 12:30pm to 3:30pm on a Zoom link. Call Kumisión secretary Roland Blas for more information, special accommodations and agenda at 480-4047 (rblaskumision@gmail.com). **(PR)**

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) Board is hereby giving notice of its regular board meeting, to be held on May 27, 2021 at 9:30 a.m., Office of SHEFA conference room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, O'leai, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes from April 28th, 2021
- II. Public Comment(s)
 1. Northern Marianas Technical Institute
- III. Committee Reports
 - a. Committee on Awards
 - b. Committee on Appeal/Deferrals/Forbearance
 - c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
 - d. Committee on Program and Development
 - e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs
- IV. Administrator's Report
- V. Chairman's Report
- VI. Old Business
 1. Fall 2021 application status
 2. Loan repayment/collections
- VII. New Business
 1. Guam Marianas Training Center
- VIII. Executive Session
- IX. Miscellaneous Matters
- X. Next Meeting
- XI. Adjournment

/s/ Francisco D. Cabrera,
Interim Chairman, Board of SHEFA Directors

Vaccine availability is expanded

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force have expanded vaccine accessibility by making the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine available at all vaccination sites, which includes new outreach sites at various churches on Sundays.

Those who are 12 years old and older are now able to be registered for COVID-19 vaccinations at all sites. Walk-ins are accepted at all vaccination

sites. The MCATS operating hours are Monday – Friday, 8am – 6pm; and Saturdays, 8am – noon. The Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center vaccination operating hours are Monday – Friday, 8am – 6pm; and Saturdays, 8am – 4pm.

The Chalan Kanoa Diocese has agreed to have some churches serve as vaccination sites on Sundays, from 8am to noon, at the following dates and locations:

■ May 30, Santa Soledad

Parish, Kagman

■ June 6, San Vicente Ferrier Parish, San Vicente

■ June 13, Saint Jude Parish, Koblerville

■ June 20, San Antonio Parish, San Antonio

■ June 27, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa

Village vaccination sites will continue to run Saturdays, 8am – noon, at the following dates and locations:

■ May 29, Northern Marianas College Building J

■ June 5, San Roque Parish social hall

■ June 12, location to be determined

■ June 19, Kagman Community Center

■ June 26, Northern Marianas College, Building J

■ July 3, San Roque Parish social hall

Currently, 54% of the eligible population in the CNMI have been fully vaccinated. For live updates on this number, visit www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard. The COVID-19 vaccines are available to uninsured residents. Vaccine recipients do not have to pay for vaccination. **(PR)**

CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

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School Year 2021 – 2022

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Infant-toddler serves children 6 weeks to 36 weeks*

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Request through Facebook or Instagram Messages

OR

Visit us at our Pop-Up Recruitment Sites
Locations are posted on our Facebook Page & Instagram @cnmihseh

Submit Completed Applications by May 31, 2021

Applications may be submitted the following ways: **1.** Drop off at one of our HS Offices **2.** Visit a Pop-Up Recruitment Site **3.** Send it by email

323-7446/664-3761 **hsehs@cnmipss.org**

*Early Head Start is currently only offered on Saipan.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
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Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC § 9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a **Special Board meeting on Friday, May 28, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Reading of the Notice of the Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Agenda
- II. Power Plant III Lease Agreement Between CUC and CPA
- III. Public Comments*
- IV. Executive Session**
(Consultation with Legal Counsel)
- V. Adjournment

/s/

MIRANDA V. MANGLONA, CHAIRPERSON
CUC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda may be modified during the meeting.
** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Expansion plans on the horizon for 500 Sails

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

500 Sails, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the CNMI's maritime traditions, has many plans in the works to expand the organization's offerings and educational opportunities.

According to 500 Sails board secretary/treasurer and co-founder Emma Perez, these plans include more than doubling the organization's fleet of canoes and collaborating with the Northern Marianas College and Public School System to expand its boat assembly yard into also becoming a maritime training center.

Currently, with the addition of the *Auntie Oba* that first set sail last Sunday, 500 Sails has a fleet of five boats—or *proas*—available for the public to ride on every Sunday from 10am to 2pm at the beachside near the Guma Sakman. Perez shared that the organization has seven *proas* “under some form of construction or repair,” with three of the seven being over 40 feet or longer.

The organization eyes sailing north, but for now will be setting sail for Tinian soon. “We want to go north [in the future]. We’re planning on sailing to Tinian in July with four of these canoes. ... We’re getting excited about that,” said Perez.

She also shared the organization's plans to collaborate with NMC and PSS to expand its boat yard into also serving as a maritime training center, where the organization can hold more formal classes.

Currently, 500 Sails does a co-op program where PSS students can get involved with the group's many learning opportunities and receive elective credits in return. According to Perez, 500 Sails has had this program for four

semesters now.

“We want to go north, we want to go to Pagan, we want to go to Tinian and Rota on

a regular basis. ... We want more and more voyages off the reef, but we’ve got to get our sailors stronger

and our sailors taught. ... We’ve almost got more canoes than sailors, so we’re really encouraging more and

more people to come out,” said Perez.

For those interested in learning more about the

org and its swimming, *proa*-building, and sailing classes, their website is <http://500sails.org/>.



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2017 MAZDA **MAZDA3** TOURING H/B

SALE PRICE **\$17,995** | STK: 20D013A
21,120 MILES
KBB: \$17,801



2018 KIA **OPTIMA** LX

SALE PRICE **\$17,995** | STK: 18HS952C
10,367 MILES
KBB: \$19,930



2011 TOYOTA **4RUNNER**

SALE PRICE **\$19,995** | STK: 11P314
77,762 MILES
KBB: \$21,336

2014 MAZDA **MAZDA6** SPORT

• 44,202 MILES
• STK: 19HS901B
• KBB: \$14,024

SALE PRICE **\$12,995**



2018 MAZDA **MAZDA3** SPORT

• 10,153 MILES
• STK: 18HS905
• KBB: \$19,496

SALE PRICE **\$14,995**



2019 MITSUBISHI **OUTLANDER** SPORT 2WD

• 12,549 MILES
• STK: 19HS896
• KBB: \$20,458

SALE PRICE **\$18,995**



2018 KIA **FORTE**

• 10,564 MILES
• STK: 18HS916
• KBB: \$15,477

SALE PRICE **\$13,995**



2017 HYUNDAI **TUCSON** LTD AWD

• 24,118 MILES
• STK: 17R256
• KBB: \$18,424

SALE PRICE **\$15,995**



2020 HYUNDAI **ELANTRA** SPORT

• 4,180 MILES
• STK: 20P307
• KBB: \$21,326

SALE PRICE **\$18,995**



2017 MAZDA **MAZDA3** SPORT

• 34,648 MILES
• STK: 20M094A
• KBB: \$14,967

SALE PRICE **\$13,995**



2017 HONDA **HRV** LX

• 39,686 MILES
• STK: 18P317A
• KBB: \$17,453

SALE PRICE **\$16,995**



2018 HONDA **CIVIC** EXT

• 10,120 MILES
• STK: 18HS935
• KBB: \$22,425

SALE PRICE **\$19,995**



2016 TOYOTA **PRIUS** C

• 48,814 MILES
• STK: 20D134A
• KBB: \$16,585

SALE PRICE **\$13,995**



2018 HYUNDAI **TUCSON**

• 19,482 MILES
• STK: 8H035D
• KBB: \$17,777

SALE PRICE **\$16,995**



2019 TOYOTA **C-HR**

• 56,670 MILES
• STK: 19P323
• KBB: \$21,534

SALE PRICE **\$19,995**



2017 **MAZDA3** SPORT

• 38,494 MILES
• STK: 7R235
• KBB: \$17,146

SALE PRICE **\$13,995**



2018 NISSAN **ROGUE** SP AWD

• 30,612 MILES
• STK: 21H004A
• KBB: \$18,555

SALE PRICE **\$17,995**



2019 MAZDA **CX-5** GT AWD

• 8,214 MILES
• STK: 19P299
• KBB: \$28,460

SALE PRICE **\$26,995**



2016 HYUNDAI **VELOSTER**

• 39,217 MILES
• STK: 20H068-A
• KBB: \$15,830

SALE PRICE **\$13,995**



2015 TOYOTA **HIGHLANDER** LE

• 62,811 MILES
• STK: 5HS735A
• KBB: \$19,031

SALE PRICE **\$17,995**



2019 TOYOTA **TACOMA** SR5 2WD

• 13,339 MILES
• STK: 19P321
• KBB: \$34,648

SALE PRICE **\$33,995**



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BOAT

From Page 1

In a joint effort by the Department of Public Safety Boating Safety Section, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, and container ship the *APL Saipan*, the three fishermen were rescued in the waters 5 miles south of the northern island Sarigan. When the fishermen were first found, they were holding on to the portion of their capsized boat that was still peeking above the water.

According to a DPS news release posted on its social media page yesterday, they received a call at 4:30am regarding a distressed vessel about 5 miles south of the island of Sarigan and dispatched a patrol boat out of

Smiling Cove soon after. At about 9:29am the officers noticed a vessel's bow above the water with three fishermen holding on to the vessel, helped the three men onto their boat, and transported them to a passing container ship, *APL Saipan*, for medical attention. DPS reported that all three fishermen said they were okay and did not have any injuries.

According to USCG Sector Guam public affairs officer Lt. Junior Grade Edward Oingergang, the Coast Guard served a "dispatcher role"—when they receive a report of a vessel in distress they contact assets within the area. In this case, it included DPS, the *APL Saipan*, and one of the Coast Guard's own vessels. Oingergang said a team was sent to the scene to assess potential oil spills and other pollution

risks as there was fuel on board, but was unable to disclose further as the "case" was "closed."

As per DPS' press release, the three fishermen left Saipan on Monday morning, travelling during the day to the site where they were found to go night fishing. The fisherman operating the boat "noticed that the vessel was taking in a lot of water" and within a minute the boat began to capsize. The operator used a satellite phone to call a friend to let him know that their boat was capsizing. The friend then called DPS for help.

DPS urges boaters to call the Boating Safety Office at 233-9120 for a complete list of required safety equipment to have on board or to call the DPS front desk at 664-9001 for any questions.

ILLICIT

From Page 1

into DOC and that some DOC officers may be using drugs themselves.

During budget hearing in the House of Representatives chamber Tuesday, Villagomez refrained from directly answering the question about drug use among DOC officers and asked that the matter be discussed in a closed-door meeting.

House Committee on Ways and Means chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) recommended to do the closed-door meeting through the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee since Rep. Celina Babauta (D-Saipan) also had some questions she wanted to ask that would also fall in line with the closed-door meeting.

Sablan stated that there have been reports from both current and former inmates that they found it quite easy to get drugs into DOC. "Easier in some cases, according to some of these inmates, in DOC than it is on the streets," Sablan said.

The lawmaker said it's also been

reported that a significant percentage of Corrections officials may be using drugs themselves. "Are you aware of this report?" Sablan asked the commissioner. That's when Villagomez asked to answer the question in a closed-door meeting or maybe in Sablan's office, saying there are some confidential thing that he does not want to mention in the public. That's when Manglona said a separate meeting with Villagomez will be done later.

Sablan agreed to discuss the matter offline after consulting with the House legal counsel Joe Taijeron whether the issue is an appropriate subject for an executive session.

In response to Sablan's inquiry, Villagomez disclosed that the last time there was drug test for DOC officers was just last week. The commissioner also requested to talk about the drug test results in a closed-door setting.

Sablan noted that there is a bill pending in a House committee that aims to provide more clarity in the law as to contraband items getting into DOC. DOC director Georgia Cabrera said they participated in the drafting of that legislation.

House Committee on Ways and Means chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said a closed-door meeting with Villagomez will be scheduled at a later time.

On the vaccination issue, Villagomez said 95% of inmates and 100% of DOC officers have already been vaccinated for COVID-19.

Sablan said such high percentages are reassuring if DOC is going to be moving forward with reopening some of their programs.

For now, the Bible study program at DOC had been stopped because of the pandemic, Villagomez said.

He said the only program that is open is the outreach program, in which the inmates can help out any government agency that may need help with services such as cleanup or painting.

In response to Rep. Ivan Blanco's (R-Saipan) question on budget matters, Villagomez said they are fine with the Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' proposal, which aligned with the 2019 budget figure, but less that what he (commissioner) had proposed.

"I'm supporting the submission of the governor," the commissioner said.

Long, Rodriguez top Tinian graduates

TINIAN—Residents here were joined by Commonwealth leaders as they all gathered in the afternoon of May 25 to honor and celebrate the success of 34 high school seniors who all graduated from the only public high school on this island municipality.

Tinian High School's Class of 2021 held a face-to-face graduation, instituting all COVID-19 safety precautions and protocols. It was a socially-distanced graduation. Tinian High School was the only public school in the CNMI to hold such in-person commencement exercise.

Tinian High School was also the first to hold a high school graduation among the six public high schools on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Class of 2021 valedictorian is Tasi Thomas Gutierrez Long. He is a recipient of the Board of Education Award. He is going to attend Stanford University. BOE chair Andrew L. Orsini and Tinian board member Antonio Borja presented the award.

Class of 2021 salutatorian is Clarence Paraiso Rodriguez. He this year's recipient of the Commissioner

of Education Award, which was presented by Dr. Alfred B. Ada and was joined by Special Education director Donna Flores.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) attended the ceremony and were joined by municipal officials led by Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Edwin P. Aldan and Senate President Jude Hofshneider, among others.

Others in the Top 10 are: (3) Anisha Juana Cabrera Viches; (4) Elvie Marie Acido Dominguiano; (5) Kiran Arthur Malicdem Shrestha; (6) Yesha Joy Sosa Reyes; (7) Axl Matias Ong; (8) David Robert Reyes Mendiola; (9) Suhyeon Yoon, and (10) Ramier Gamban Balagtas.

Keynote speaker was Tinian High School's vice principal Nikita Mendiola, who graduated from the same school 14 years ago.

The recipient of the Governor's Award was Suhyeon Yoon. Elvie Marie Dominguiano is the recipient of the Lt. Governor's Award. School Leadership Award was presented to Yna Marie Agbayani. (PSS)

REVENUE

From Page 1

Territorial Income Tax collections of personal income amounted to \$9,447,767. Atalig attributed this to the taxes received from PUA funding and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation funding dispersed to recipients.

On the other hand, the wage and salary tax collections stood at \$4,450,173 or approximately 25.93% less than the forecasted amount of \$6,007,844. He said corporate income tax collection was valued at \$287,176 compared to the forecasted amount of \$613,819. Atalig said Business Gross Revenue Tax col-

lection was \$10,875,500, which is approximately 20.32% less than the forecasted amount. He said excise tax collections yielded \$6,079,375 or 27.36% less than the forecasted budget.

Atalig noted that actual expenditures showed several sections that had exceeded the appropriated budget.

He highlighted the \$1,234,717 appropriation to the Department of Public Safety, which was exceeded by the actual expenditure amount of \$2,837,826—a 130% increase. He said this is attributed to DPS' response to the COVID-19 emergency.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

FOOD STAMP

From Page 1

Macaranas said yesterday that because of the distribution of NAP benefits on June 1 to 7, the applications for the Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer, or P-EBT, will have to be submitted during this period to the Public School System's Child Nutrition Program offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

P-EBT is a federal program that will provide the Marianas an estimated \$11.1 million that will benefit approximately 11,650 children. PSS' CNP and DCCA's

NAP are partnering to administer the program.

Macaranas said they will be distributing NAP benefits to approximately 4,300 households on Saipan, and 200 households each on Tinian and Rota.

On Saipan, Macaranas said, due to the NAP drive-thru benefit distribution on June 1 to 7, NAP office will not be accepting P-EBT applications during this period. Instead, the administrator said, P-EBT applications will have to be submitted to the PSS CNP office at Building 1251 on Capital Hill.

Macaranas said their office will resume accepting P-EBT applications

on June 8 to 11.

On Tinian and Rota, the administrator said, NAP benefits will be distributed on June 1 to 3.

During this period, he said, for Tinian P-EBT households are requested to submit their applications to the PSS CNP located at the Tinian Jr./Sr. High School, while for Rota at the PSS CNP office located at Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School.

Macaranas reminded P-EBT applicants that the last day to submit a completed P-EBT application will be on June 11 no later than 4:30pm at the PSS CNP office, or no later than 5pm at the NAP office.

The administrator asked for the

public's understanding about the temporary closure to submit P-EBT applications at the Saipan NAP office and designated offices on Tinian and Rota during the respective regular distribution schedule.

On the vaccination matter, Macaranas disclosed that all of the 41 NAP staff have been fully vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccines as of May 17, 2021.

"NAP staff are very committed and dedicated when serving the public. They are hardworking individuals who do their best to serve an already overwhelming number of NAP clientele," he said.

The COVID-19 vaccination, he

said, is an example of a commitment to serving the public and ensuring the people that the NAP staffs who serve them are vaccinated.

Macaranas noted that NAP staffs continued providing essential NAP service to the public during the government closure from March 16, 2020 to May 17, 2020. "NAP staffs were gravely concerned about their safety and their family's safety but remained vigilant and steadfast in serving the public," he said.

The administrator recalled seeing numerous occasions when NAP staffs "went above and beyond to serve families in need, especially during post-natural disasters."



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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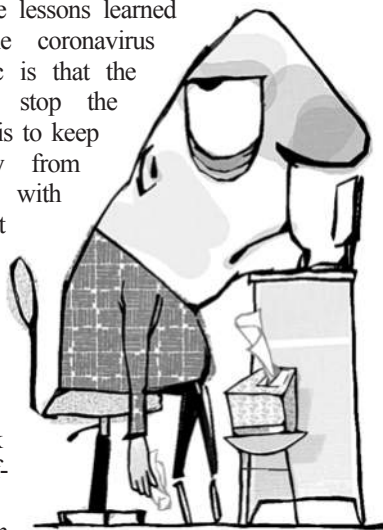
AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Staying home when sick

One of the lessons learned from the coronavirus pandemic is that the way to stop the spread of a disease is to keep sick people away from healthy ones. But with many employers not offering paid sick days, some workers face the dilemma of whether it's more important to stay home while sick or go to work because they can't afford the loss of pay.



Federal legislation has been proposed that would require workers be given up to seven paid sick days per year to care for themselves or a sick family member.

The CARES Act passed last year required paid sick time for workers affected by COVID-19, but that legislation ended at the start of the new year. That leaves both employers and workers vulnerable.

The smart employer would recognize the wisdom of paid sick days: primarily, preventing the spread of sickness to other employees or customers. Sick workers affect productivity. Sick employees can lead to sick customers, particularly in the service industries. On top of these financial considerations, there's the humanity of allowing an employee to take care of himself, herself or a family member without forgoing pay.

Statistics indicate that there are a significant number of employers that don't provide paid sick days. The federal Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that nearly 24% of the civilian workforce, roughly 33.6 million people, does not have paid sick days.

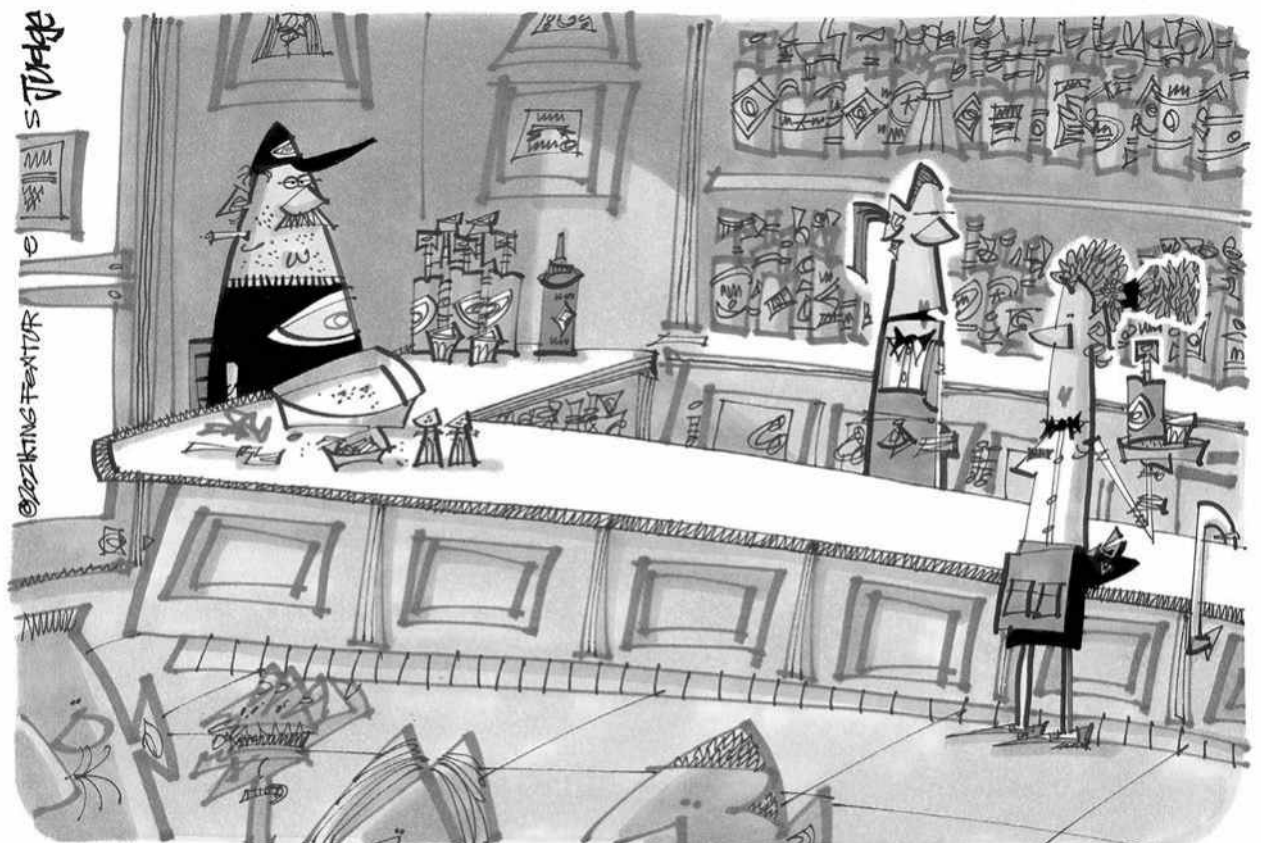
Furthermore, those without paid sick days often are among those earning the least. Some 51% of workers earning \$13.80 or less per hour have paid sick days; for those earning less than \$10.80 an hour, just 31% have the benefit, according to the BLS.

Absent a national law, some states and local municipalities have passed their own legislation, leading to a hodgepodge of protocols nationwide. Twelve states and the District of Columbia require some form of paid sick time. Although the particulars vary, the vast majority of them provide those who work an average of 35 hours a week with the equivalent of 40 hours of paid sick time annually.

Pennsylvania does not require paid sick days. Pittsburgh does, and Allegheny County is in the process of getting such a measure on the books.

Paid sick days are good for people and good for business. A federal standard makes sense.

(c) 2021 the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



"A DOUBLE BACON CHEESEBURGER, LARGE ORDER OF FRIES, FIVE BEERS, TWO SHOTS OF JACK, SIX CIGARETTES AND HE SAYS HE WON'T TAKE THE VACCINE BECAUSE THERE MIGHT BE A HEALTH RISK."

What else would you be willing to do for \$1 million?

An innovative lottery program in Ohio looks like it might have succeeded in raising vaccination rates. If the result holds, it means a triumph for behavioral economics. And that will open up the possibility of using lotteries to lure people into doing all sorts of things.

Less than 50% of the U.S. population has been vaccinated so far — enough to reduce cases, but not nearly enough to end the pandemic decisively. Public health authorities have tossed out a lot of ideas for getting these people to do the right thing: vaccine passports, payments to people who get vaccinated, sending people personalized text messages, to name a few. But the best solution might have been found by Ohio's Republican governor, Mike DeWine.

DeWine recently announced a lottery with a \$1 million prize that people can enter by showing that they've been vaccinated. Two days after the program was announced, the state had its best vaccination day in weeks. The effect might be temporary, but it establishes a useful precedent: a lottery is a good lure. Other states should try the same.

Why did a lottery succeed in boosting vaccination rates? Vaccine refusal has unfortunately become a partisan issue; 41% of Republicans still say they won't get a COVID-19 shot, compared with only 4% of Democrats. But in a famous experiment published back in 2015, some political scientists found that while Republicans and Democrats normally give very different answers to questions about the state of the economy, when you pay them a little money for a correct answer, the gap mostly vanishes. In the same way, just a small chance to win a million bucks might get vaccine refusers to drop the partisan nonsense.

A lottery might be much more effective than simple cash payments. First of all, entering a lottery is fun — it lets you dream big dreams about what you'd do with the prize money, even if your chance of winning is infinitesimal. But also, behavioral economists have documented a phenomenon called probability weighting — human beings can't easily comprehend very low probabilities, so they tend to think the chances of rare events are higher than they really are. Everyone knows they're unlikely to win the lottery, but since they don't realize just how astronomically unlikely, the lottery seems like a better bet than it really is.

That opens up the possibility that lotteries could be used to get people to do lots of other things. For example, policy makers

By **NOAH SMITH**
Bloomberg View

Noah Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He was an assistant professor of finance at Stony Brook University, and he blogs at Noahpinion.



already try to design various behavioral nudges to get people to do things like invest in energy-saving upgrades for their houses or put away more money in their 401(k) retirement plans. Adding a lottery as a potential reward might be the best nudge of all. Economists have trouble getting people to use cash-benefit programs like the earned income tax credit, either because people don't know about the program or because signing up feels like a hassle; adding a lottery to the program might help overcome that resistance so that more people can claim the money they're already owed.

In fact, if you want to dream big, all kinds of pro-social behaviors could be incentivized with lotteries. You could have lotteries where the price of entry is getting a good bill of health at your annual doctor's checkup. Driving safely for several years and not getting any tickets might enter you in a lottery. We could have a nation full of people who stay safe and healthy just for a chance at a few million bucks.

Of course, that raises the question of whether this is ethical. A lot of people already have reservations about behavioral nudges, and many people frown on lotteries as well. If people really do have trouble assessing small probabilities, then aren't lotteries a form of deception?

Perhaps so. Except if that deception simply prompts people to get a COVID-19 vaccine, or drive safely, or sign up for cash benefits from the government, on top of giving them a tiny chance at big money, it seems like it's all to the good. A normal lottery ticket costs money; for public policy lotteries, the only price of admission would be doing something that helps you anyway. All in all, it seems like policy makers should think about how to employ lotteries more often for the public benefit.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month commentary

By **CONRALYN MANGLONA**
56TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

We all come from different backgrounds and each has a story to tell. It is important to talk about what makes us unique and to give us a chance to know and understand a person. A Pacific Islander myself, as it is Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage month, I wanted to take the time to speak to that portion of diversity that lies within the Air Force.

Tinian is a small island in the Pacific Ocean that I call home. It is one of the islands that make up the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and home to my indigenous people, CHamorus. With a population of about 4,000 people, there are no shopping malls, movie theaters or fast food restaurant chains on Tinian. However, what you will find are locally owned cafes, mom-and-pop stores and beautiful beaches.

Growing up, my family did not have much, and life was hard. Employment was heavily dependent on political party affiliation. For example, if your political party were to win the election, you would most often times be guaranteed to have a job. In contrast, if they were to lose, most often you would be unemployed for the duration of their term. This weighed heavily on my parents growing up, and led to periods of financial insecurity for our family. In search of a better opportunity for us, my parents decided to move to Guam when I was 13 years old. Guam is a 30-minute flight from Tinian, but is a more developed island.

Upon graduating from high school, I did not have a plan. I thought about following in my dad's footsteps and becoming a mechanic, but with the cost of tuition to get me through college, especially coming from a household that did not have the financial resources, it felt like too big a struggle. In my family, college was not a serious option. Everyone saw the military as a pathway to success—the best choice available. So, there I was, stuck between going to college and joining the military. My brother was the one that encouraged me to enlist, and I did so in April 2014. Seven years later, here I am, grateful and not regretting that decision.

When I joined the Air Force, I went from a girl from the small island of Tinian to a military servicewoman living in the United States. It was a huge culture shock! I quickly realized I had a different outlook on life than the people around me. I only knew the island lifestyle growing up, which is easygoing, and moved to an environment where everything felt so fast-paced and overwhelming. It took some time, but I eventually got the hang of things.

However, to this day I still find it amazing how I am seeing all these places that I only saw on the television as a child, and I



COURTESY PHOTO

Staff Sgt. Conralyn Manglona poses for a photo with her family. Manglona and her family are from Tinian, one of the islands of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

still find it incredible how diverse this country is. Living in the U.S. mainland has changed how I look at life; I was so tunnel-visioned and now I am more open-minded and able to view things in different ways.

Nonetheless, I have had my fair share of negative experiences as well. Having an accent came with challenges for me as I was mocked and laughed at. On occasion, I would have to repeat what I had said because of my accent. It felt humiliating at times, especially in social settings and made me want to change the way I speak, making sure I pronounce my words properly like simple words such as salmon, oven or saying "A/C" or "air conditioning" instead of "aircon" just so I wouldn't be ridiculed.

Most of the time, I would prefer not to talk out of fear that I would be teased again. In one instance, I remember being asked a question and as I was about to answer I could see the smirk on the other person's face. I was mocked right in front of my peers. Looking back, I wish I had stood up for myself or had told some-

one about it to address the situation.

Having this experience definitely made me a better airman, wingman and supervisor because it's times like these that add the authenticity of genuinely caring for my peers and being there for them. I am able to provide insight to others that may have been through or are going through similar things, letting them know that they are not alone.

If we continue to be kind, open-minded, and have these uncomfortable conversations rather than instant reactions, we can learn from and teach one another. While creating a safe space for airmen, I think we could really make a difference; I believe this will bring about positive change in the Air Force. We must ensure that our airmen not only feel but also know that they have a voice and understand that their voices matter.

Staff Sgt. Conralyn Manglona is a 56th Communications Squadron knowledge management technician.

No, Israel is not an apartheid state

The charge of apartheid is the new blood libel.

As Hamas rains rockets down on Israel, members of the Squad in Congress and other left-wing enemies are using the occasion to amplify their accusation that Israel is an "apartheid state."

This is a transparent attempt to delegitimize—and isolate and ultimately destroy—the Jewish state by associating it with a racist regime that the world united to squeeze out of existence.

Rashida Tlaib, the Democratic congresswoman from Michigan, says that Israel is "promoting racism and dehumanization" under an "apartheid system," and Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota refers to "Israel's apartheid government."

The charge is given a patina of legitimacy by Human Rights Watch, which recently issued a 213-page report devoted to the allegation, and other anti-Israel organizations that understand the accusation's potential power to define Israel out of the circle of advanced democracies.

It doesn't take much moral discernment to understand, even if one takes a harshly critical view of how Israel conducts itself, that it is nothing like an apartheid regime in South Africa that depended on a rigorously enforced system of racial repression.

The Arab minority in Israel (about 20% of the population) may face obstacles, but it is not treated like black South Africans.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and her ideological compatriots tweeted the other day, "Apartheid states aren't democracies," which nailed the point, just not the way they intended.

Israel is a democracy that affords its Arab citizens full rights. They vote in elections and Arab parties sit in parliament. These parties obviously have a profoundly different worldview than the Zionist parties, which has been a barrier preventing cooperation between them. But this year, in a first, Arab parties were part of the negotiations over forming a new government before they broke down.

Arab Israelis are full participants in Israeli society. There are Arab justices on the Supreme Court. About 20% of doctors in Israel and about half of pharmacists are Arab. Roughly 17% of students seeking an undergraduate degree are Arab, a number has roughly doubled over the last decade.

As Steve Kramer of The Times of Israel puts it, "They arguably are the most free Arabs in the Middle East."

Then, there are the Palestinian territories, where there is a marked lack of democracy courtesy of the Palestinians themselves.

Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas, who is still serving a four-year term that began about 15 years ago, cancelled new elections scheduled for May 22. He found a way to blame Israel for this move, of course, but the bottom line is that his party, Fatah, feared Hamas would win, as it did in the last Palestinian election back in 2006.

The Palestinians have made postponing elections into a high political art, in keeping with the lack of democratic accountability in other neighboring Arab states.

How Israel should handle the threat of another terror state devoted to its destruction arising on its borders is, any fair-minded

By **RICH LOWRY**
King Features Synd., Inc.



Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

person should concede, an inherently difficult question.

It has offered the Palestinians a state twice, in 2000 and 2008, to no avail.

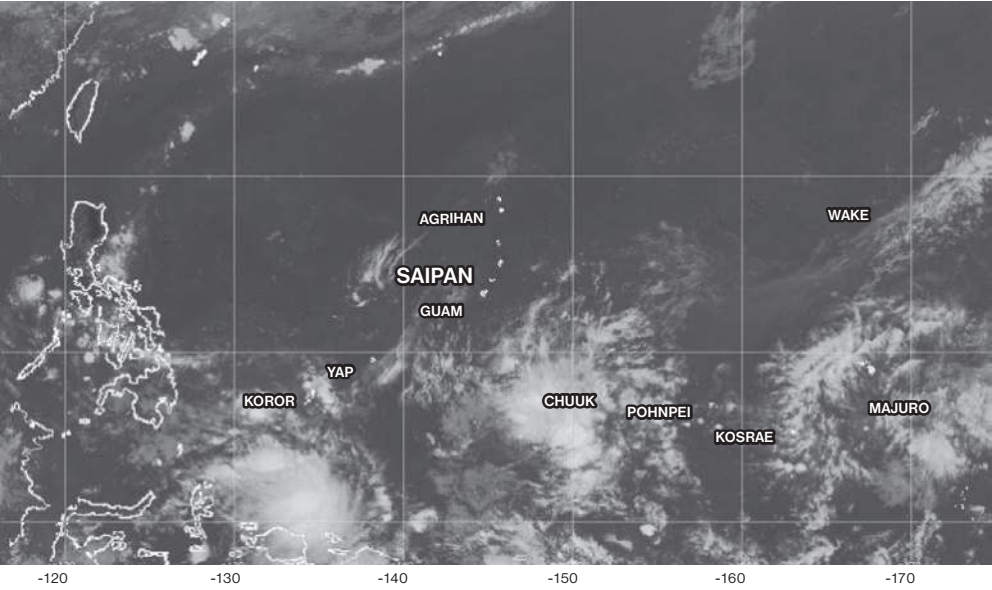
Israel evacuated the Gaza Strip entirely in 2005. It can't be blamed for Hamas winning the elections in 2006, taking over Gaza in a coup against Fatah a year later, and misgoverning the territory ever since, with an emphasis on using it as a base from which to wage war against Israel.

Much is made of its border controls in Gaza and the West Bank, but a border isn't a denial of citizenship rights, rather a demarcation between two societies. If the Palestinians would ever accept the right of Israel to exist and embrace a program of peaceful development, they'd get their own sovereign state.

Instead, they want to wipe Israel from the map, and are getting an assist from purveyors of the malicious lie that Israel is morally indistinguishable from the old, racist South Africa.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 4:01 AM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly cloudy skies and isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters. An approaching trade-wind disturbance is creating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms to the east. The buoys reveal combined seas of 4 to 6 feet composed mainly of east trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly cloudy	88 81 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85 79 °F	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85 73 °F	
Chuuk	Partly cloudy	86 81 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86 79 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 80 °F	
Majuro	Partly cloudy	85 81 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:42 PM
Sunday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Monday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:10 AM	7:39 PM
Friday	-	7:10 AM	8:45 PM
Saturday	-	8:13 AM	9:48 PM
Sunday	-	9:17 AM	10:45 PM
Monday	-	10:18 AM	11:35 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly cloudy	64 56 °F	
Beijing	Mostly sunny	82 63 °F	
Hong Kong	Cloudy	82 75 °F	
Honolulu	Sunny	81 69 °F	
London	Sunny	79 62 °F	
Los Angeles	Mostly cloudy	88 80 °F	
Manila	Thunderstorms	87 79 °F	
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	65 49 °F	
Miami	Partly cloudy	88 77 °F	
New York	Overcast	75 58 °F	
Osaka	Cloudy	79 58 °F	
Paris	Clear	84 60 °F	
Pusan	Clear	76 52 °F	
Rome	Mostly sunny	83 58 °F	
Salem	Partly cloudy	73 49 °F	
San Francisco	Fog	63 52 °F	
Seoul	Sunny	77 53 °F	
Tokyo	Cloudy	74 64 °F	
Washington, DC	Sunny	77 58 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:01 AM	Low Tide	1.27	
7:07 AM	High Tide	2.23	
2:26 PM	Low Tide	-0.45	
9:30 PM	High Tide	2.20	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 20, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,	UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable				

Oleai school to conduct tsunami drill on June 3, Thursday

The CNMI Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management will be conducting a tsunami preparedness exercise drill with the students and staff of Oleai Elementary

School on Thursday, June 3, 2021, at 8:30am.

The students and staff of OES will be making their way from the elementary school through Texas Road on to

Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road and up As Terlaje Hill to the Northern Marianas College campus.

Motorists are advised to exercise caution as the outer lane

of Chalan Monsignor Road will be closed off from Oleai up to the NMC campus and residents along Texas Road are advised to secure loose pets for student and faculty safety.

The drill will be done in collaboration with the Public

School System, the Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

“HSEM would like to thank the community in advance for their patience as we work to prioritize student

safety and emergency preparedness in the Marianas,” said the agency in a press statement yesterday.

For questions or concerns, contact the CNMI State Warning Point at 237-8000. **(PR)**

COVID-19 Task Force chair supports Finance chief's reprogramming power

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citing that the CNMI still has “many unknowns” at this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor's COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez underscores the need to continue the state of emergency declaration that gives the Finance secretary unlimited reprogramming authority.

In response to a question about the concerns by some

lawmakers about the year-long state of emergency declaration during Friday's radio news briefing, Villagomez said he supports Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig's reprogramming power to be able for the CNMI act expeditiously in its response to COVID-19.

He said Atalig's power allows the CNMI to readily respond if there is an upsurge in the CNMI's number of COVID-19 cases.

He assured that they make

sure to consult the Office of the Attorney General on things that they need in terms of their response to the pandemic to keep the community healthy and safe.

At the same radio press briefing Friday, Atalig said he is of the opinion that the state of emergency should continue as it gives him the flexibility should the CNMI get into situation of a community

spread or if anything happens in terms of their COVID-19 prevention and mitigation.

“I need that flexibility to ensure that I can reprogram or move funds or get funds to address the emergency should that happen,” he pointed out.

Atalig said the CNMI is still in a pandemic and that they are still moving forward with their plans and ensuring



Villagomez

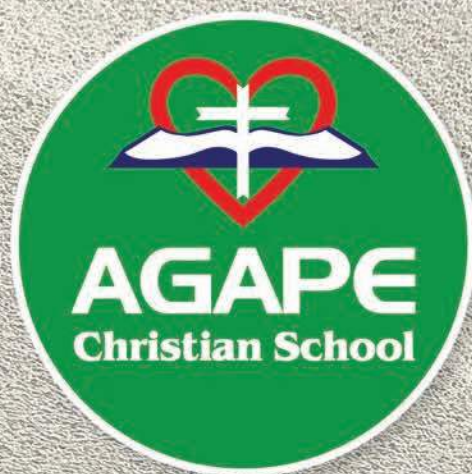
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DOF-098
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 14, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.
“OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR PASSPORT OFFICE, OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & OFFICE OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND RECOVERY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE”
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY*
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE
/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ)
RFQ21-CHCC/PH/CGC-001
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 21, 2021 TIME: 4:30PM (CHST)
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR INDEFINITE DELIVERY INDEFINITE QUANTITY (IDIQ)
INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFQ. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.
THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.
/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP21-GOV-082
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 30, 2021 TIME: 02:00 P.M.
“GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR”
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY*
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE
/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
DIRECTOR, PROC. SERVICES

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director
INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-21-019
Island Wide Water Meter Installation
The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Water Meter Installation in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of: replacement of water meters, relocation of a water meter and meter vault, reconfiguration of water meter service laterals, expansion of a water meter vault, installation of gate valves, replacement of vault covers, installation of ladder rungs, driveway and sidewalk restoration, and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system and service to the customers affected. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 120 calendar days from date of award of contract.
The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.
Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.
A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **May 25, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.
One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-21-019, Island Wide Water Meter Installation”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 10, 2021**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.
A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A **Payment Bond** of one Hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*
Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.
This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.
Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 1, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alley Reyes, CUC Water/Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email address alley.reyes@cucgov.org and to Christie Sablan, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.
CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.
BETTINA TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director
MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net
Tels: (670) 234-6866
234-9447
234-7689
234-7670
Fax: (670) 234-9021
PUBLIC NOTICE
(This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds)
May 27, 2021
Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt Arnold I. Palacios, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman, Ms. Merced “Marcie” M. Tomokane, wish to announce that its Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER) and the Annual Community Assessment Report (ACA) for Program Year 2019 is available for review. Comments made by the general public should be submitted no later than 4:30p.m. on Friday, June 11, 2021. Written comments must be submitted to the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by contacting Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, at 234-9447/7689.
The report will be submitted to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Honolulu Office, on or before June 25, 2021. The CAPER and ACA encompasses the performance assessment of all HUD-funded programs, administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.
The report is available on NMHC's website at www.nmhc.gov.net and at the NMHC Central Office in Saipan and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Rota and Tinian during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review and comment on the plan must contact the Planning Division for arrangements by calling (670) 234-7689/6866 during regular business hours.
/s/ Merced “Marcie” M. Tomokane
Chairwoman of the Board
“NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency”



14TH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES AND GRADUATION CEREMONY

SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021

Continue the school's vision and mission to educate, inspire, and change lives

MAY 28, 2021 • 6:00 P.M.



CONGRATULATIONS

Class of 2021

MIDDLE SCHOOL Graduates



Xu, Esther
Jiayin
Valedictorian

Jie, Mengmeng
(Rose)
Salutatorian

Chen, Phoebe
Jiaqi

Cheng, Kexuan
(Priscilla)

Fu, Mary

Huang, Yilin
(Elim)

Li, Tianwei
(Bill)

Liang, Jiawei
(Tony)

Luo, Yutian
(Allen)

Nunez, Aiyana
Christel Clapis

Peng, Enqi
(Peter)

Ren, Xu
(Angel)

Sun, Yinghao
(Steven)

Tan, Enhao
(Hudson)

Yang, Jason
Yijie

Zhai, Yinshaoping
(Corrie)

Zhang, Zekun
(Matt)

Zhu, Enyu
(Sarah)

HIGH SCHOOL Graduates



Feng, Yinfeng (Abbey)
Valedictorian

Next Destination
Major in Mechanical Engineering
Bob Jones University,
South Carolina
\$12,500 Scholarship from BJU

Chen, Jinkai
Salutatorian

Next Destination
Major in Accounting, Minor-Computer
Application, Northern Marianas College
\$30,000 Scholarship from University
of Arizona

Cai, Lydia Yiting
Next Destination

Major in Mechanical Engineering,
Pensacola Christian College,
Florida
\$5000 Scholarship from PCC

Du, Jiabo (Becky)
Next Destination

Major in Nursing,
Pensacola Christian College,
Florida
\$5000 Scholarship from PCC

Garcia, Keziah Balleta
Next Destination

Major in Elementary Education
Pensacola Christian College,
Florida
\$9000-\$10,000 Scholarship
from PCC

Medina, Ryzher Gu
Next Destination

Major in Computer Engineering,
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and
State University, Virginia
\$11,845 Scholarship from
Virginia Tech

Qi, Jie (Ray)
Next Destination

Major in Information Technology &
Computer Science,
Pensacola Christian College, Florida
\$5000 Scholarship from PCC

Shan, Haozhe (Simon)
Next Destination

Major in Computer Engineering
Pennsylvania State University,
Pennsylvania
\$6000 from University of Arizona &
\$10,000 Scholarship from BJU

Shen, Yang (Peter)
Next Destination

To be decided, China

Tang, Wendy
Next Destination

Major in Biology Education,
Minor-History,
Pensacola Christian College, Florida
\$9000-10,000 Scholarship from PCC



Wang, Yaomin (Steven)
Next Destination

Major in Information Technology
Pensacola Christian College, Florida
\$5000 Scholarship from PCC



Wu, Vivian Linzhi
Next Destination

Major in Graphic Design,
Pensacola Christian College, Florida
\$5000 Scholarship from PCC



Xu, Jiamei (Elizabeth)
Next Destination

Major in Political Science,
Minor- Spanish,
Pensacola Christian College, Florida
\$5000 Scholarship from PCC



Xu, Tychicus
Next Destination

Major in Mechanical Engineering
Rose-Hulman Institute of
Technology, Indiana
\$25,000 Rose-Hulman Merits
Scholarship



Yang, Lining
Next Destination

Major in Nursing,
Pensacola Christian College, Florida
\$5000 Scholarship from PCC



Yang, Weixiu (Alice)
Next Destination

Major in Nursing,
Pensacola Christian College, Florida
\$5000 Scholarship from PCC



Yang, Yilin (Rebecca)
Next Destination

Major in Science Education,
Minor-Music,
Pensacola Christian College, Florida
\$5000 Scholarship from PCC



Yu, Hanxiang (Ivy)
Next Destination

Major in Nursing,
Pensacola Christian College, Florida
\$5000 Scholarship from PCC



Zhang, Enhui
Next Destination

Major in Nursing,
Pensacola Christian College, Florida
\$5000 Scholarship from PCC



Zhang, Rulan (Ruby)
Next Destination

Major in Music,
Pensacola Christian College, Florida
\$5000 Scholarship from PCC

Business

New entrepreneurs welcomed

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Department of Commerce acting secretary Edward DeLeon Guerrero is changing how people perceive the department's function. Aside from its primary function of processing permits and releasing business regulations, they offer available guidance and assistance to current business owners and especially, to those who are budding entrepreneurs.

"I am advocating for new business and current businesses expanding in the CNMI that if they need help, they can come to our office for assistance and guidance because the Department of Commerce exists to help businesses... we have programs that includes assistance to small business because we want to work with them," he said.

"We are not only a permitting agency. My philosophy is in order for us to succeed, people will have to succeed. Our emphasis is to hold hands with the business people to make sure they follow



DeLeon Guerrero

all the regulations because this will ensure their success," he added.

DeLeon Guerrero is aware that there are many people in the community who want to get into business but the thought intimidates them. "I encourage people to come out and get into entrepreneurship. My office is here to provide guidance and help them go through opening step by step. We also gives advice on how to organize and putting your business together and also financially.

"People get intimidated when they talk about business. I know it is not easy there's a lot of uncertainty and I think that is what holds people back. But if you know that there is a team that can guide and make it easier for them, then that dream can be realized," he added.

DeLeon Guerrero was recently on Rota to meet with officials and business people and next on the list is Tinian. "My plans include going around the islands to let the community what we can do for them—not only Commerce but also there are other government agencies that can help them. We have to make sure that the rules that people do not understand, we will explain," he said.

With the many challenges we are facing, we want the community to know that opportunity awaits them and we are here to help," he added.

The CNMI Department of Commerce is located on Capitol Hill. They are open Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm. For more information, call (670) 664-3000

DC files case vs Amazon over treatment of vendors

WASHINGTON (AP)—The District of Columbia has sued Amazon, accusing the online retail giant of anticompetitive practices in its treatment of sellers on its platform. The practices have raised prices for consumers and stifled innovation and choice in the online retail market, the DC attorney general alleges in an antitrust suit.

The suit filed Tuesday in the District of Columbia court maintains that Amazon has fixed online retail prices through contract provisions and policies it applies to third-party sellers. It alleges these provisions and policies prevent sellers that offer products on Amazon.com from offering their products at lower prices or on better terms on any other online platform, including their own websites.

"We filed this antitrust lawsuit to put an end to Amazon's illegal control of prices across the online retail market," DC Attorney General Karl Racine said in a conference call with reporters. "We need a fair online marketplace that expands options available to (District of Columbia) residents and promotes competition, innovation and choice."

Racine said Amazon, the

world's biggest online retailer, controls 50% to 70% of online market sales.

The suit seeks to end Amazon's use of the allegedly illegal price agreements as well as unspecified damages and penalties.

Amazon rejected the allegations, saying the relief Racine is seeking "would force Amazon to feature higher prices to customers, oddly going against core objectives of antitrust law."

"The DC attorney general has it exactly backwards—sellers set their own prices for the products they offer in our store," the Seattle company said in a prepared statement. "Amazon takes pride in the fact that we offer low prices across the broadest selection, and like any store we reserve the right not to highlight offers to customers that are not priced competitively."

Founded by Jeff Bezos, the world's richest individual, Amazon runs an e-commerce empire and ventures in cloud computing, personal "smart" tech and beyond.

Its third-party marketplace, with independent merchants listing millions of their products on the site, is a huge part of Amazon's business. It has about 2 million

sellers on its marketplace, and the company has said that more than half the goods sold on Amazon.com come from third-party sellers. Amazon also makes money by charging third-party sellers fees, bringing in \$24 billion in revenue in the first three months of this year, up 64% from the same period in 2020.

Like its Big Tech counterparts Facebook, Google and Apple, Amazon faces multiple legal and political offenses from Congress, federal and state regulators and European watchdogs.

A congressional investigation threw a spotlight on complaints by merchants that sell products on Amazon's platform about the kinds of practices that the District of Columbia suit focuses on. Officials in California and Washington state also have been reviewing the practices.

European Union regulators filed antitrust charges in November accusing Amazon of using its access to data from sellers that use its platform to gain an unfair advantage over them.

Bezos is stepping down this summer as CEO, to be replaced by Andy Jassy, who runs the cloud-computing business. Bezos will become executive chairman.

Nation

Rallies and moments of silence honor George Floyd year later



People call for a moment of silence on the one year anniversary of George Floyd's death on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, in Minneapolis, Minn.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A family-friendly street festival, musical performances and moments of silence were held Tuesday to honor George Floyd and mark the year since he died at the hands of Minneapolis police, a death captured on wrenching bystander video that galvanized the racial justice movement and continues to bring calls for change.

Floyd's sister Bridgett and other family members held a moment of silence at a "Celebration of Life" event at a downtown Minneapolis park that included music, food trucks, an inflatable bouncy house and a vaccination stand. A few miles away, at the site of the intersection where Floyd died, dozens of people knelt around a steel fist sculpture for several minutes—symbolizing the 9 minutes, 29 seconds during which Floyd was pinned down.

"It's been a troubling year, a long year," Bridgett Floyd told the crowd downtown. "But we made it. ... The love is here. George is here."

Other members of Floyd's family met in Washington with President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, who urged Congress to quickly pass a law in Floyd's name that would bring changes to policing. A moment of silence to honor Floyd was also held in New York and a rally was held in Los Angeles. Globally, a rally took place in Germany and Floyd's death was marked by U.S. embassies in Greece and Spain.

Hours before the Minneapolis festivities, the in-

tersection where Floyd died was disrupted by gunfire.

Associated Press video from 38th Street and Chicago Avenue—informally known as George Floyd Square—showed people running for cover as shots rang out. Police said a man, who they believe was injured in the shooting, went to a nearby hospital with a gunshot wound. Police said he was in critical condition but was expected to survive. There were no immediate arrests.

Philip Crowther, a reporter working for AP Global Media Services, which provides live video coverage, reported hearing as many as 30 gunshots about a block from the intersection. Crowther said a storefront window appeared to have been broken by gunshots.

"Very quickly things got back to normal," Crowther said. "People here who spend a significant amount of time, the organizers, were running around asking, 'Does anyone need a medic?'"

Like other major cities, Minneapolis has been struggling with rising gun violence, a problem made worse, in part, by many officers leaving the embattled force since Floyd's death. A 6-year-old girl was fatally shot and two other children wounded in recent weeks. Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey last week unveiled sweeping public safety proposals aimed at fixing the problem. Other groups are pursuing a more radical remaking of the police department.

The intersection of 38th and Chicago has been bar-

ricaded since soon after Floyd's death. It quickly turned into a memorial—and also a challenging spot for the city, with police officers not always welcome.

The square was transformed Tuesday into an outdoor festival, with food, children's activities and music. At times, people danced in the street. Artwork and signs from protests after Floyd's death also were on display. One group hosted an open mic next to a greenhouse that community members constructed earlier this year to house flowers left by mourners. Nearby, a brass band played for passersby.

The celebration also included a candlelight vigil and capped several days of marches, rallies and panel discussions about his death and confronting racial discrimination.

Xavier Simmons, 24, from Racine, Wisconsin, chanted "Say his name!" as people knelt. Simmons said he hopes people taking part in the festivities will both honor Floyd's life and legacy and continue to "uplift and empower this movement."

"We got the verdict that we needed, but it's never going to change until we make a change," he said.

Floyd, 46, who was Black, died May 25, 2020, after then-Officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck, pinning him to the ground for about 9 1/2 minutes. Chauvin, who is white, was convicted last month of murder and faces sentencing June 25. Three other fired officers still face trial.

Asia

AS TOOLS OF TERROR IN CRACKDOWN Myanmar's junta uses bodies

Two black pickups speed down an empty city street in Myanmar before coming to a sudden stop. Security forces standing in the back of the trucks begin firing at an oncoming motorbike carrying three young men.

The bike swerves, crashing into a gate. More shots are fired as two of the passengers run away, while the third, Kyaw Min Latt, remains on the ground. Moans are heard as officers grab the wounded 17-year-old from the pavement, throwing his limp body into a truck bed before driving off.

The incident lasted just over a minute and was captured on a CCTV camera. It is part of a growing trove of photos and videos shared on social media that's helping expose a brutal crackdown carried out by the junta since the military's Feb. 1 takeover of the Southeast Asian nation.

An analysis by The Associated Press and the Human Rights Center Investigations Lab at the University of California, Berkeley, looked at cases where bodies of those targeted indiscriminately by police and the military are being used as tools of terror. The findings are based on more than 2,000 tweets and online images, in addition to interviews with family members, witness accounts, and local media reports.

The AP and HRC Lab identified more than 130 in-

stances where security forces appeared to be using corpses and the bodies of the wounded to create anxiety, uncertainty, and strike fear in the civilian population. Over two-thirds of those cases analyzed were confirmed or categorized as having moderate or high credibility, and often involved tracking down the original source of the content or interviewing observers.

Since the military takeover, more than 825 people have been killed—well over two times the government tally—according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, a watchdog organization that monitors arrests and deaths. The junta did not respond to written questions submitted by AP.

The HRC Lab examined hours of footage posted online over a two-month period showing dead bodies being snatched off the streets and dragged like sacks of rice before being thrown into vehicles and driven to unknown destinations. Some people have been disappeared or arrested one day and returned dead the next, their corpses mutilated with signs of torture, witnesses confirmed to AP.

Autopsies have been carried out without the permission of families. And some death certificates blame heart attacks or falls after violent attacks, contradicting witness accounts and images captured

by protesters, journalists, or residents, including some who have been stealthily recording incidents with mobile phones through windows or from rooftops.

Cremations and exhumations of the deceased have been secretly conducted in the middle of the night by authorities. Other times, grieving families have been forced to pay military hospitals to release their loved ones' remains, relatives and eyewitnesses told the AP.

Though the incidents may seem random and unprovoked—including kids being shot while playing outside their homes—they are actually deliberate and systematic with the goal of demobilizing people and wearing them down, said Nick Cheesman, a researcher at Australian National University, who specializes in the politics of law and policing in Myanmar.

"That," he said, "is exactly the characteristic of state terror."

Taking a page from the army's historical playbook, experts say the violence also appears aimed at keeping the death toll artificially low and concealing evidence. But unlike past violence, the attacks are being captured on smartphones and surveillance cameras in real-time and could one day be used against the regime before international criminal courts, as has happened elsewhere in the world. (AP)

1.1 million evacuated before cyclone hits India's east coast

NEW DELHI (AP)—More than 1.1 million people have evacuated low-lying areas before a cyclone hits part of India's eastern coast around midday Wednesday.

Cyclone Yaas has already caused two deaths and damage to homes as severe weather and rains affect Odisha and West Bengal states. It is due to make landfall around noon.

The "very severe cyclonic storm" has sustained winds of 130-140 kilometers per hour (up to 87 mph) that are gusting up to 155 kph (97 mph), the India Meteorological Department said on Wednesday.

A tornado snapped electricity lines that electrocuted two people and damaged 40 houses in West Bengal's Hooghly district on Tuesday, the top state elected official Mamata Banerjee said.

Kolkata airport is shut until 8 p.m. and train services were

canceled before the storm as a precaution, the railroad department said.

The cyclone has dumped more than 17 centimeters (6.5 inches) of rain in Chandabali and Paradip regions of Odisha state since Tuesday, the meteorological department said. Tidal waves of up to 4 meters (13 feet) are likely to flood some low-lying areas.

At least 20 districts in West Bengal state were expected to feel the brunt of the storm. Fishing trawlers and boats were told to take shelter.

The cyclone coming amid a devastating coronavirus surge complicates India's efforts to deal with both after another storm, Cyclone Tauktae, hit India's west coast last week and killed more than 140 people.

Odisha's chief minister, Naveen Patnaik, appealed to people being moved to cy-

clone shelters to wear double masks and maintain social distancing. "We have to face both the challenges simultaneously," Patnaik said.

Thousands of emergency personnel have been deployed to help evacuate people and prepare for possible rescue operations, said S.N. Pradhan, director of India's National Disaster Response Force. India's air force and navy were also on standby to carry out relief work.

A year ago, the most powerful cyclone in more than a decade hit eastern India. Nearly 100 people died in Cyclone Amphan, which flattened villages and destroyed farms in eastern India and Bangladesh.

"We haven't been able to fix the damage to our home from the last cyclone. Now another cyclone is coming, how will we stay here?" said Samitri, who uses only one name.

World

Blinken seeks to fix Palestinian ties on maiden Middle East trip

JERUSALEM (AP)—Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday announced plans to reopen a key diplomatic outreach office to the Palestinians and pledged nearly \$40 million in new aid—reversing key policies of the Trump administration as he moved to bolster the embattled Palestinian government in the West Bank.

On his first official visit to the region, Blinken met with Israeli and Palestinian leaders with the immediate aim of shoring up last week's cease-fire that ended 11 days of fighting between Israel and Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip. He vowed to "rally international support" for the effort while also promising to ensure that none of the aid would reach Hamas.

Blinken repeatedly alluded to the underlying issues of the decades-old conflict and expressed empathy for both sides, but he showed little interest in launching another U.S. push for lasting peace, perhaps because previous efforts by past administrations have all failed. Instead, he expressed hope for creating a "better environment" that might one day yield peace talks.

Despite these modest aims, Blinken made clear that President Joe Biden will pursue a more even-handed approach



AP
Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, right, meet with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Tuesday, May 25, 2021.

to the region than former President Donald Trump, who sided overwhelmingly with Israel in virtually every area of disagreement with the Palestinians.

"As I told the president, I'm here to underscore the commitment of the United States to rebuilding the relationship with the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people, a relationship built on mutual respect and also a shared conviction that Palestinians and Israelis alike deserve equal measures of security, freedom opportunity and dignity," he said after a meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank.

In an act with great symbolic meaning, Blinken said the U.S. would reopen its

Jerusalem consulate—an office that for years served as the de facto embassy to the Palestinians.

Trump had downgraded its operations and placed them under his ambassador to Israel when he moved the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to the holy city in 2018. The embassy move infuriated the Palestinians, who claim Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem as their capital, and led them to sever most ties with the Trump administration.

Blinken did not provide a firm date for the reopening but said that Michael Ratney, a senior U.S. diplomat who has previously served as consul general in Jerusalem, would soon be returning to the region.

Iran, world powers resume talks on US return to nuclear deal

VIENNA (AP)—World powers opened a fifth round of talks with Iran aimed at bringing the United States back into the landmark 2015 nuclear deal meant to prevent the Islamic Republic from obtaining an atomic bomb, with both sides expressing hope Tuesday that it might be the final series of negotiations.

The talks in Vienna came the day after the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, struck a last-minute agreement with Tehran for a one-month extension to a deal on surveillance cameras at Iran's nuclear sites. The issue wasn't directly related to the ongoing talks on the nuclear accord, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, but if Iran had not agreed it could have seriously complicated the discussions.

The U.S. is not directly involved in the talks, but an American delegation headed by President Joe Biden's spe-

cial envoy for Iran, Rob Malley, has been in the Austrian capital. Representatives from the other powers involved—Germany, France, Britain, Russia and China—have shuttled between the Americans and the Iranians to facilitate indirect talks.

Following a Tuesday afternoon meeting of the so-called Joint Commission, Russian delegate Mikhail Ulyanov, who has consistently been the most optimistic about the possibility of an agreement that would get the U.S. to rejoin the nuclear deal, suggested a resolution was in sight, calling it "the fifth and probably final round of the Vienna talks."

"The participants expressed readiness to do their best to resolve the remaining outstanding issues and to complete negotiations successfully as soon as possible," he tweeted.

Iran's delegate to the talks, Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, told Iranian state television as he headed into the session that following "good

progress in the last four rounds of talks" he hoped the fifth would be the last.

"There are still important issues that need to be fixed," he said. "We hope that we will be able to reach a final solution during these several days of negotiations."

Malley was more non-committal as he headed back to Vienna, tweeting that the previous round had been "constructive and saw meaningful progress."

"But much work still needs to be done," the U.S. envoy wrote. "On our way to Vienna for a fifth round where we hope we can further advance toward a mutual return to compliance."

In 2018, then-President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the agreement unilaterally, saying it was not broad enough and needed to be renegotiated. As part of a "maximum pressure" campaign, Trump reimposed sanctions on Iran in an effort to bring Tehran back to the table.

Environment

The rainy season will be coming in a few months, and along with it comes stormwater that go eventually into our oceans. Problem lies, however, when this stormwater picks up sediments along the way, becomes polluted and badly affects our coral reefs.

Rain gardens are “depressions” or “dips” that slow down water and help it drain and sink into the soil, addressing issues with erosion and potential flooding, and again, polluted waters that drains to our oceans, harming marine life.

There are currently four rain garden models set up by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality on island that we can all check out—there’s one at the Tanapag Middle School, one in San Vicente Elementary School, another in William S. Reyes Elementary School, and one at the NMI Museum of History and Culture.

But, it’s not just in schools or museums that rain gardens can be set up. Rain gardens can also be set up at home, and what best way to help protect our oceans from our very own yards than to do that.

Saipan Tribune sat down with Coastal Resources Management watershed coordinator Zachary Williams to talk about building a rain garden at home. He recently led a team from BECQ to restore the rain garden at the Tanapag Middle School.

According to Williams, rain gardens set ups at homes does not have to be the scale of the rain garden projects they have helped set up so far.

“It can be a smaller scale rain garden, 8 square feet is better than nothing, and it can be a pretty landscaping feature, attractive for people who like to birdwatch. It can also improve drainage on the property.”

“I know a lot of people with flooding on their property, and this is one way to alleviate a bit of that—trying to connect the rain garden to your gutter, you can have your down-

spouts tubing go directly in a rain garden, for example,” he added.

Setting up a rain garden does not necessarily mean spending big money too, said Williams, particularly if it is relatively small.

“Basically just dig and stabilize it with some rocks, and then plant some plants. The cool thing about rain gardens, since it collects water, the soil is a lot more moist so you can plant more wetland-like plants. Taro, for example, it thrives really well in rain gardens.”

While at the moment, Williams still hopes to have some funding opportunities for homeowners to set up their own rain gardens, anyone who wanted to know how to install one on their property may contact him for technical guidance and advice.

To learn more about rain gardens, contact Zachary Williams at zwiliams@derm.gov.mp or visit the

CRM website at <https://derm.gov.mp>.

How to build your rain garden

Source: CNMI Rain Gardens: A Rain Garden Manual for CNMI Residents, printed with permission from BECQ

Step 1: Pick a location. Choose a location where water sits, but typically dries up within 24 hours after a storm. A simple way to test this is to do a soil test. For the soil test, dig a hole that is 12 in. deep and 6 in. diameter, then fill it with water. Wait for it to drain, and then fill it again. If it drains within 12-24 hours, then your soil is good. If it takes longer than 24 hours to drain, you will need to mix your soil with sand and compost to achieve better drainage before you add your plants.

You also have to make sure you have a way for your water to get in

and a way for your water to get out. Choose Areas at least 10ft away from any building, without utilities or pipes, at least 3ft away from big trees and their roots without steep slopes or hard bedrock, or away from your septic tank or leach field.

Step 2: Get the water in. Make sure there is a way for water to go into your garden. The easiest inlets are a rooftop downspout, driveway or culvert that directs stormwater into the depression. You may have to dig a trench, redirect your downspout or cut back grass to make sure the water easily flows in during a storm. Estimate how much water is coming in by measuring the area of hard surfaces in the drainage area, like the roof or driveway, that flows directly to the site where you want your garden.

Step 3: Dig. You want your gar-

den to catch water and act like a mini pond. Your garden should ‘dip,’ or have a depression. Dig around 6”-8” deep for the deepest part of your rain garden (usually in the middle). Then the sides gradually slope up until at least the upstream side is level with the surface. A hump or “berm” on the opposite side from the inlet holds the water in, but allows water to overflow in really big storm events.

Step 4: Choose plants. You want a mixture of plants that can handle Saipan weather patterns and seasonal changes. Look for a mix of shrubs, flowers, grasses, and small trees. Native plants usually do the best in local weather conditions.

Depending on the shape and depth of your rain garden, you will find some spots are wetter and require plants that can handle flooding, like taro. Other spots will usually stay drier and need drought-resistant plants like vetiver grass. Pay attention to sunny and shady spots too to figure out where to place different plants. Plants that work well in the CNMI rain gardens include vetiver, taro, red ginger, and ti.

Step 5: Maintenance. Pay special attention to your garden for the first couple of months following the digging and planting. During the dry season, water your plants as needed and keep an eye out for dying plants. Use additional plants to fill in bare areas throughout the first 6-12 months. Make sure to weed your garden at least once a week. Do not use pesticides or fertilizers on your garden, as they are chemicals and harmful to our environment.

If you notice that your inlets and outlets (areas where your water comes in and out) are filled debris, clear them out. If they are blocked by soil, remove the soil and mix it with mulch or compost and re-layer your garden. Look out for debris after every big rain event.

Build your own rain garden

By IVA MAURIN
ivamaurin@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT



IVA MAURIN

The rain garden at the NMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan. Rain gardens are “depressions” or “dips” that slow down water and help it drain and sink into the soil, addressing issues with erosion and potential flooding, and again, polluted waters that drains to our oceans, harming marine life.

Life & Style

Jolie says judge in Pitt divorce won't let children testify

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Angelina Jolie criticized a judge who is deciding on child custody in her divorce with Brad Pitt, saying in a court filing that the judge refused to allow their children to testify.

Jolie, who has sought to disqualify Judge John Ouderkirk from the divorce case, said in the filing Monday that he declined to hear evidence she says is relevant to the children's safety and well-being before issuing a tentative ruling. The documents don't elaborate on what that evidence may be.

"Judge Ouderkirk denied Ms. Jolie a fair trial, improperly excluding her evidence relevant to the children's health, safety, and welfare, evidence critical to making her case," according to the filing in California's Second District Court of Appeal.

The actress also said the judge "has failed to adequately consider" a section of the California courts code,

which says it is detrimental to the best interest of the child if custody is awarded to a person with a history of domestic violence. Her filing did not give details about what it was referring to, but her lawyers submitted a document under seal in March that purportedly offers additional information.

Jolie sought a divorce in 2016, days after a disagreement broke out on private flight ferrying the actors and their children from France to Los Angeles. Pitt was accused of being abusive toward his then-15-year-old son during the flight, but investigations by child welfare officials and the FBI were closed with no charges being filed against the actor. Jolie's attorney said at the time that she sought a divorce "for the health of the family."

Her new filing says the judge has "refused to hear the minor teenagers' input as to their experiences, needs,



This combination photo shows Angelina Jolie at a premiere in Los Angeles on Sept. 30, 2019, left, and Brad Pitt at a special screening on Sept. 18, 2019. AP

or wishes as to their custody fate," citing a California code that says a child 14 or over should be allowed to testify if they want to.

Three of Jolie and Pitt's

six children are teenagers, 17-year-old Pax, 16-year-old Zahara, and 14-year-old Shiloh. The oldest, Maddox, is 19 and not subject to the custody decision. They also have

12-year-old twins, Vivienne and Knox.

In response to Jolie's filing, Pitt's attorneys said, "Ouderkirk has conducted an extensive proceeding over the

past six months in a thorough, fair manner and reached a tentative ruling and order after hearing from experts and percipient witnesses."

Pitt's filing said the judge found Jolie's testimony "lacked credibility in many important areas, and the existing custody order between the parties must be modified, per Mr. Pitt's request, in the best interests of the children."

It says Jolie's objections and further delays in reaching an arrangement would "work grave harm upon the children, who will be further denied permanence and stability."

It's not clear what the current custody arrangement is because the court seals most files. When the divorce process began, Pitt sought joint custody and Jolie sought primary physical custody—meaning the children would live more than half the time with her. But changes have been made that have not been made public.

Religious artifacts returned to Thailand after decades

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two stolen hand-carved religious artifacts, sandstone lintels dating back to the 9th and 10th centuries, were returned to the Thai government on Tuesday in a ceremony more than 50 years overdue.

The 1,500-pound (680-kilogram) antiquities had been stolen and exported from Thailand—a violation of Thai law—roughly a half-century ago, authorities said, and donated to the city of San Francisco, authorities said. They had been exhibited at the San Francisco Asian Art Museum.



A lintel originally from the Nong Hong Sanctuary in Thailand is displayed during a ceremony to return it and another stolen hand-carved sandstone lintel dating back to the 9th and 10th centuries to the Thai government Tuesday, May 25, 2021, in Los Angeles. T AP

San Francisco, which owns the museum, agreed to hand over the ancient sandstone slabs following a three-year investigation by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and a civil lawsuit. The lintels had been structural parts of two religious sanctuaries in northeastern Thailand.

Records showed that the lintels had been obtained by a collector in galleries in London and Paris in the 1960s, according to the civil complaint. The collector, Avery Brundage, was apparently aware that at least one of the lintels had been illegally taken out of Thailand, the complaint states.

Brundage, a former controversial president of the International Olympic Committee who donated the art to establish the museum, died in 1975.

The museum, however, contends that authorities conflated the two lintels with a third—which Brundage actually returned to Thailand in 1970 when he found out it may have been illegally removed from the country, according to Robert Mintz, deputy director of the Asian Art Museum.

The third lintel was never part of the San Francisco art collection, Mintz said, and museum officials say there's no evidence Brundage knew the other two

lintels may have been stolen.

The Thai government had been trying to get the museum to return the other artifacts since 2016. The Los Angeles Times reported the mystery surrounding the lintels, and various attempts to return them to Thailand, in March.

Mintz said the curators are entrusted with artifacts held for the public and it was their responsibility to determine if any challenges to provenance are valid.

Mintz said the museum followed its bylaws—which stipulate certain steps must be taken—and did not seek to delay the return of the lintels.

Forgetfulness in everyday life leads to anxiety

DEAR ABBY: While I am excited for new opportunities in my life, I cannot shake the feeling I am losing something. I am always losing something, whether it be my phone, my keys or my wallet. Once I lost my retainers and had to pay \$300 for new ones.

I have trouble keeping track of things. I'm afraid it will create serious problems when I begin a career and lose something, which could cost me my job. I'm also worried that I'll inherit important items from my family and lose them. I'm nervous about being in charge of my own life when I can't even keep track of the \$5 in my pocket. I urgently need this bad habit to change. Is there anything that will help me?

LOSING IT IN GEORGIA

DEAR LOSING IT: Your problem may not be as uncommon as you fear. Have you ever heard the adage, "A place for everything and everything in its place"? It's good advice. Choose one location to place your phone, your keys and your wallet when you come home. Once you form that habit, you will always know where your things are. (There is an app, Find My Device, that may help you locate your electronic devices if you have a computer. There are also companies—like Tile—that can help you locate lost items such as your keys or wallet.)

Some people with attention deficit disorder lose track of items because they are easily distracted and focus on more than one task at once. When you are holding your phone, keys, etc., reminding yourself to stay in the present may help. If none of these techniques works for you, discuss your fears with a licensed psychotherapist, who can help you determine what's at the root of your problem and help lessen your anxiety about the future.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend/best friend for about six years now. We moved in together a little over a year ago and have discussed marriage. The issue is, one of his sisters has an alcohol problem. She becomes rude and tries to bully others when she drinks. When she does that to me, I return the treatment, and she turns to her brother and attempts to make him side with her.

I know how important family is. Because I'm not related, I am left feeling vulnerable—like she may disrupt my relationship with her brother. I love him, and I really try with her. I think she would be happy if her brother were more available to hang out with her. She's a tomboy and often hung out with him prior to us moving in together. Please help me figure out a solution.

COMPETING IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR COMPETING: One option might be for you and your boyfriend to leave when his sister starts drinking. Discuss this with your boyfriend/best friend. If you haven't done that, please do. His sister may be trying to divide and conquer, but enlisting him to her side will be much more difficult if he simply responds by telling her, "I don't want to be involved in this, Sis. Leave me out of it, and stop picking on my girlfriend."

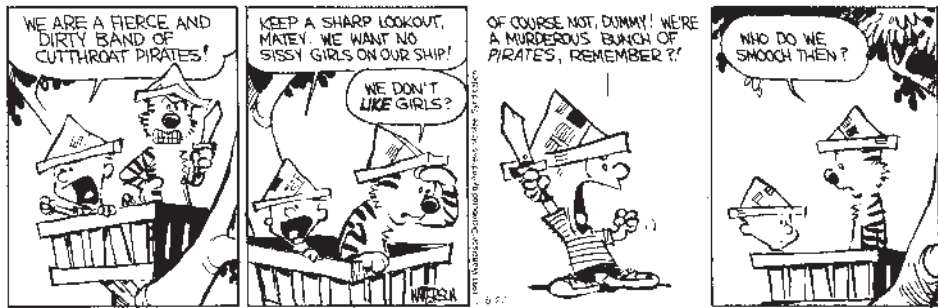
■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Buddy to Rover

4 Worry

8 Chumps

12 Somewhat (Suff.)

13 Move, in Realtor-speak

14 Military group

15 Lab compound

17 Video-streaming brand

18 Pub pint

19 Discov-ered

21 Lustrous

24 Dead heat

25 Citric beverage

26 Society newcomer

28 "Speed-the-Plow" playwright

32 Ever-greens

34 — de plume

36 Entice

37 Follow

39 "Uh-huh"

DOWN

22 Tennis score

23 Longing

27 Lad

29 Steve Harvey

30 One of HOMES

31 Head, to Henri

33 Para-mount

35 Jo's sister

38 Shoe width

40 Think about

43 "Hog-wash!"

45 Notre Dame's Par-seghian

46 Met melody

47 Easy win

48 Many corp. recruits

49 Georgia or Cal

53 Blackbird

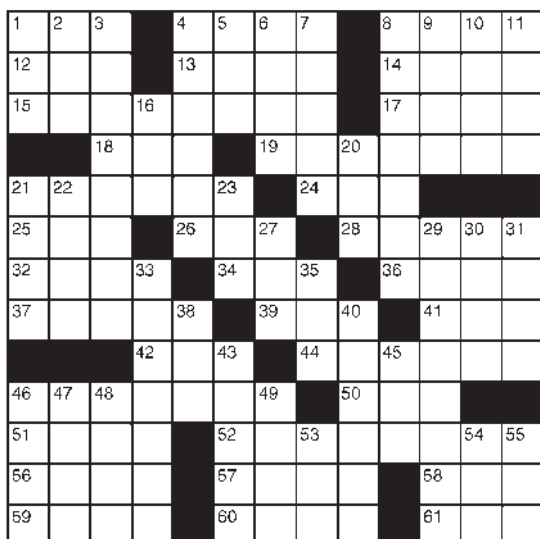
54 Embrace

55 Rock's Brian

Solution time: 24 mins.

F	E	W	M	A	R	T	T	E	R	M
E	V	A	E	L	O	I	A	O	N	E
T	N	T	E	D	D	Y	B	E	A	R
A	L	G	A	E	E	E	L			
M	O	M	S	N	E	R	V	E		
T	A	X	B	R	E	A	K	T	E	E
I	S	M	S	A	I	E	S	P	E	C
L	A	M	T	O	R	A	B	O	R	A
E	A	S	E	L	N	I	L	E		
T	M	I	G	O	T	T	E	R		
A	N	N	E	I	B	F	G	T	A	N
O	O	R	M	A	R	A		A	L	T

Yesterday's answer 5-27



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chris Colfer, 31; Shanola Hampton, 44; Jack McBrayer, 48; Paul Bettany, 50.

Happy Birthday: Honesty is the best policy, regardless of what others choose to do. Don't make promises you don't intend to keep. An upfront approach to life, love and happiness will help you get to a comfortable, convenient place. Keep things simple, doable and affordable, and good things will unfold. Choose self-improvement and personal growth over trying to change others. Your numbers are 6, 10, 14, 22, 24, 36, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get your facts straight, and trust in what you know. Someone will try to intervene if given a chance. Be prepared to stay calm. Be articulate, and go about your business doing things your way. Take control and have no regrets. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Money, legal and medical issues will be confusing. Don't let uncertainty get you down. The research you do will help you gather the facts and ease your mind regarding how best to handle such matters. Take the initiative, and leave nothing to chance. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take a moment to reevaluate your life and expectations. Step up and make the changes that will help you find the clarity you need to move forward. Finding your purpose will put your mind at ease and encourage discipline and hard work. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Rely on yourself. Put your energy where it counts. Structure your day to encourage

creativity. Don't run away from conflict, change or criticism; be accountable and carry on with your head held high. Expect someone to withhold information. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't deviate from your plan to accommodate someone unpredictable. Take charge of your destiny, and set guidelines that will help you reach your dreams, hopes and wishes. A passionate approach to work, life and love will help you excel. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Refuse to let what other people do or say confuse you. Let your determination and resources carry you to the place you want to go. Stamp out negativity, and say no to anyone using emotional tactics to manipulate you. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Strive to push yourself forward. Show everyone what you have to offer and what you are willing to do to get what you want. A commitment honored will bring you one step closer to the life you want to live. ★★★★★

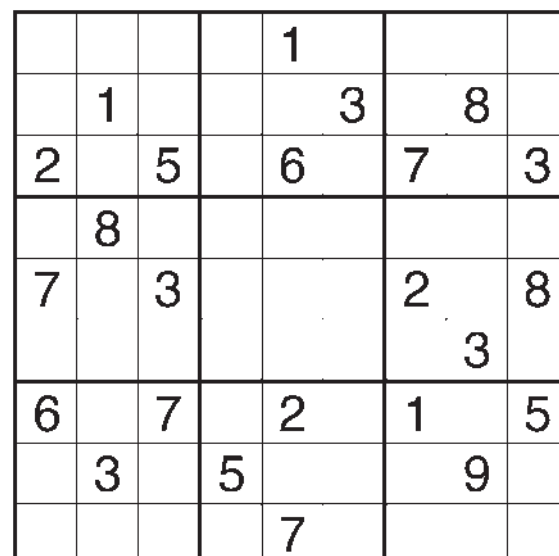
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take stock of what you have accumulated, then lighten your load. The peace of mind you gain from decluttering your life will help you clarify and resolve what to do next. It's up to you to make your dream come true. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Personal matters will confuse you. Read between the lines, and you'll figure out what others want. Take a moment to decipher and decide how best to handle the demands put on you. Stay focused on what you want and proceed. ★★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



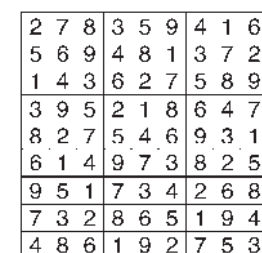
Difficulty Level ★★★

5/27

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

5/27

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll have trouble navigating your way through money matters. Escalating costs and lack of stability in the economy will make you reluctant to carry on as usual. Look for an innovative way to cut your overhead to release tension. ★★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Set your priorities straight. Put home and family first. Don't let outsiders interfere or rope you into something you don't want to do. Keep your life simple, don't overreact, and nurture what and who means the most to you. ★★★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Distance yourself from explosive situations. If you don't agree with someone, don't share your opinions. Put everything you've got into personal improvement, learning and living a healthy lifestyle. Keep emotions in check, and use exercise as an outlet. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are temperamental, fun-loving and appealing. You are talkative and sophisticated.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PICKING UP CURBSIDE

Solution: 7 letters



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5/27

Advertised, Alert, Bags, Bar Code, Brands, Call, Check, Complimentary, Confirmation, Crafts, Customer, Doors, Drive, Free, Groceries, Identification, Instant, Load, Local, Mail, Meal, Merchant, Mobile, Order, Payments, Pharmacy, Phone, Plan, Purchase, Sales, Service, Store, Supermarket, Tags, Text, Times, Toys, Trunk, Vehicles, Warehouse, Waste

Yesterday's Answer: Terminals

The NEW Treasury 43 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6430.

Davis, Lakers bounce back to beat Suns 109-102 in Game 2



PHOENIX (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers were reeling late in the fourth quarter on Tuesday night. The Phoenix Suns had made a big run, their home crowd was in a frenzy and the defending NBA champions were in danger of going down two games to none in the first round.

LeBron James and Anthony Davis weren't about to let that happen.

James made a turnaround 18-foot jumper, Davis followed with a 3-pointer and two free throws late in fourth quarter and the Lakers held on for a hard-fought 109-102 win over the Suns in Game 2 of the first-round playoff series.

"This was a must win," Davis said. "We all came out with that mindset and we were able to get the job done."

It was a big bounce-back game for the Lakers, and especially Davis, who struggled in Game 1 and took personal responsibility for the team's 99-90 loss on Sunday. His crucial 3-pointer with 2:15 left on Tuesday put Los Angeles up 98-92 and ended a late Suns rally.

James added 23 points and nine assists. Davis made 18 of 21 free throws and added 10 rebounds and seven assists.

Game 3 is on Thursday in Los Angeles.

The Lakers had a 63-48 lead after a 10-1 run to open the third quarter. James splashed home a 3-pointer to start the scoring and Los Angeles looked like it might put this one away comfortably.

But the Suns slowly clawed their way back. Cam Johnson made two 3-pointers late in the third quarter, including one at the buzzer, to pull Phoenix within 79-72 heading to the fourth.

Jae Crowder made a 3-pointer from the corner and was fouled, converting the free throw for a four-point play that pulled the Suns within 84-83 with 8:09 left in the fourth. Crowder had missed his first 11 3-pointers in the series before that attempt.

Deandre Ayton's dunk off an offensive rebound with six minutes left put the Suns up 88-86, which was their first lead since the opening minutes. But they couldn't hold on, struggling to guard James and Davis in the final minutes.

"We've got to do a better job of holding leads, but we showed we'll keep fighting," Davis said.

Devin Booker led the Suns with 31 points and made all 17 of his free throws. Ayton had 22 points, 10 rebounds and shot 11 of 13 from the field.

Los Angeles is physically much bigger than Phoenix with Andre Drummond, Davis, James and Marc Gasol all



Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis shouts as he celebrates a stop against the Phoenix Suns during the second half of Game 2 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Tuesday, May 25, 2021, in Phoenix.

high 25 points and Harden added 20 as the Nets unleashed their lethal offense after winning Game 1 largely with defense.

"Different games it's going to be different guys," Harden said. "Tonight it was Joe, next game, Game 3 it could be somebody else. So we're just all locked in, we're all on the same page and whatever it takes to win, we're willing to do."

Game 3 is Friday in Boston, where the Nets will attempt to build on their first 2-0 lead in a series since they swept the New York Knicks in the first round in 2004.

This one might be headed toward the same result, with the Celtics unable to do much scoring in Game 1 or stop the Nets from doing tons of it in Game 2.

"We've got to be way better," coach Brad Stevens said, listing a number of defensive problems the Celtics have to address.

"They exposed that because they were really good, but I was disappointed in how we played versus the other night."

Marcus Smart scored 19 points and Kemba Walker had 17 for the Celtics. Leading scorer Jayson Tatum had only nine points on 3-for-12 shooting before leaving after just 21 minutes when he was poked in the right eye.

Mavericks 127, Clippers 121

In Los Angeles, Luka Doncic scored 39 points, Tim Hardaway Jr. added 28 and the Dallas Mavericks again outshot the NBA's best 3-point team in a 127-121 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday night to take a 2-0 lead in the first-round playoff series.

Kristaps Porzingis added 20 points and Maxi Kleber had 13. Hardaway hit a playoff career-high six 3-pointers and Doncic had five as Dallas was 18 of 34 from long-range. The Mavs made 17 3-pointers in winning Game 1 on Saturday.

The Clippers were led by Kawhi Leonard, who scored 30 of his 41 in the first half. Paul George had 28 points and 12 rebounds.

Game 3 is Friday in Dallas.

The Clippers threw just about every body they had at Doncic in an effort to slow the player that burned them with a triple-double in Game 1. But once again, the All-Star got plenty of help from his supporting cast.

the Clippers a 73-71 lead at halftime.

Nets 130, Celtics 108

In New York, Brooklyn is more than just its Big Three. There's also Joe Harris and his 3s.

Even if a team can contain Kevin Durant, Kyrie Irving and James Harden, it still has to stop the NBA's most accurate 3-point shooter.

That's a lot of problems to solve, and Harris understands why teams don't make him the priority.

"I think it's just sort of, this is the reality of the matter," Harris said. "I mean, we have three of the best offensive players that really have ever played."

Harris tied a franchise playoff record with seven 3-pointers, Durant scored 26 points and the Nets routed the Boston Celtics 130-108 on Tuesday night for a 2-0 lead in their first-round playoff series.

Harris had a career playoff

Knicks' Julius Randle wins NBA's Most Improved Player award

NEW YORK (AP)—Julius Randle is in his seventh season, later than the usual Most Improved Player winner.

He is aware of the notion that by then, players have already shown what they are in the NBA and they're not going to get any better.

He also knows he's not that type of player.

"For me, it's always about continuing to improve," Randle said.

He did that across the board this season and was rewarded Tuesday with a runaway in the voting for the award after leading the New York Knicks to the playoffs.

Randle received 98 first-place votes from a panel of 100 sportswriters and broadcasters. His son, Kyden, delivered the award to Randle while his team was on the practice floor after he became the first Knicks player to win the Most Improved Player award.

He wants to be the second, too. Randle said his goal is to win the award again next season.

He doesn't know if he could actually get it again, but he plans to make another im-

Drummond was a force before the break with 11 points and 10 rebounds, including five on the offensive glass. Schroder led all players with 16 points. Ayton had 14 points on 7-of-7 shooting for the Suns.

There was an announced sell-out crowd at Phoenix Suns Arena, which was capped at 11,919 because of COVID-19 restrictions. That's about two-thirds of the 18,000-plus capacity.



New York Knicks forward Julius Randle (30) celebrates with head coach Tom Thibodeau after an NBA basketball game against the Boston Celtics in New York, Sunday, May 16, 2021.

provement regardless of the recognition.

"For me it's about constantly looking at when the season's over at the end of the year, did I get better?" Randle said.

The NBA says the award is "designed to honor an up-and-coming player," which Randle isn't. He averaged 21.4 points during the 2018-19 season for New Orleans before signing with the Knicks as a free agent. Last season was a disappointment for him and the team, but he worked relentlessly to make sure it wouldn't

happen again.

He averaged 24.1 points, 10.2 rebounds and 6.0 assists, ranking in the NBA's top 20 in all three categories, while playing an NBA-high 37.6 minutes as what coach Tom Thibodeau has called the Knicks' engine.

Larry Bird, Wilt Chamberlain, Oscar Robertson, Russell Westbrook and Nikola Jokic (who also did it this season) are the only other players to have a 24-10-6 season.

Beyond his stats, Randle was the clear leader of a Knicks team that had missed

the playoffs the last seven years and wasn't expected to make them this season. Instead, they went 41-31 and earned the No. 4 seed in the Eastern Conference.

But Randle had a disappointing postseason debut in Game 1, shooting 6 of 23 for 15 points in the Knicks' 107-105 loss to Atlanta on Sunday. That came after he had two of his three 40-point games during the season against the Hawks.

Randle earned 493 points in the voting to finish well ahead of Detroit's Jerami Grant, who earned the other two first-place votes and had 140 points. Michael Porter Jr. of Denver was third with 138 points.

Randle's biggest leap came from the 3-point arc, where he shot 41.1% after never hitting more than 34.4%. He also had six triple-doubles, half of his career total.

His hardworking style fit perfectly under Thibodeau, and Randle expects that will continue.

"For me, it's just about what am I willing to do and what am I willing to sacrifice," Randle said.

Rays' 11-game streak halted by Royals, 2-1



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—The

Tampa Bay Rays' 11-game winning streak came to an end Tuesday night when Brad Keller pitched seven strong innings and Salvador Perez hit a tiebreaking RBI single to give the Kansas City Royals a 2-1 victory.

Rich Hill struck out a career-high 13 for the Rays. Tampa Bay's winning string was the second-longest in club history, one shy of the record set in 2004 by the then-Devil Rays managed by Lou Piniella.

Keller (4-4) allowed one run, four hits, four walks and struck out seven. Jake Brentz went 1 1/3 innings before Kyle Zimmer got two outs to get his second save.

Perez put the Royals up 2-1 on a sixth-inning single off Hill (3-2).

Hill became the oldest player to appear in a game with the Rays at 41 years, 75 days. Hall of Famer Wade Boggs was 41 years, 73 days old when he played his final game on Aug. 27, 1999.

White Sox 8, Cardinals 3

In Chicago, Lucas Giolito beat Jack Flaherty in a major league matchup of former high school teammates, leading Chicago over sloppy St. Louis.

The Harvard-Westlake High reunion also had a little history behind the plate, with Joe West working a record 5,376th regular-season game, snapping a tie with Hall of Fame umpire Bill Klem.

Giolito (4-4) pitched six innings of two-run ball in his second straight win, easily getting the better of a shaky Flaherty hurt by another poor defensive performance by the Cardinals.

Flaherty (8-1), leading the majors in wins, lasted just 3 2/3 innings in his shortest outing of the season.

José Abreu homered and drove in four runs for Chicago, which earned its second straight win since it was swept by the Yankees over the weekend. Liam Hendriks entered with the bases loaded in the ninth and struck out the side for his 10th save.

St. Louis committed a season-high three errors in its fourth loss in five games.

Dodgers 9, Astros 2

In Houston, Clayton Kershaw pitched into the eighth inning in his first game against Houston since the 2017 World Series, and Justin Turner hit a two-run homer for Los Angeles.

Kershaw (7-3) allowed a run and four hits in 7 2/3 innings and Chris Taylor drove in two runs as the Dodgers got



their eighth straight victory.

Astros fans made up the bulk of the 34,443 crowd in the first full-capacity game in Houston since the pandemic, but Dodger blue also dotted the stands in the rematch of the 2017 World Series. Houston won that title over Los Angeles, a championship later tainted when it was revealed the Astros illicitly stole signs that season.

The Astros lost their fourth straight game as Jose Altuve went 0 for 4 to snap a 17-game hitting streak, which was the longest in the majors this season and the second-longest of his career.

Houston starter Zack Greinke (4-2) yielded three hits and four runs in six innings on a night the 18-year veteran became the 135th pitcher in MLB history to reach 3,000 career innings.

Mets 3, Rockies 1

In New York, Jacob deGrom struck out nine in a successful return from the injured list and Tomás Nido hit a tiebreaking homer to send depleted New York past Colorado.

Back from a bout with tightness on his right side, deGrom gave up only Ryan McMahon's solo homer in five innings of three-hit ball. The two-time Cy Young Award winner walked none and was removed after 63 pitches.

Nido connected for a two-run shot off Chi Chi Gonzalez (2-3) in the sixth after Dominic Smith singled. The Mets (22-20) remained atop the NL East despite a major league-most 16 players on the injured list.

Miguel Castro (1-1) struck out four in two hitless innings for the win. Edwin Díaz whiffed three in the ninth for his eighth save.

Colorado had won a season-best four straight.

Blue Jays 6, Yankees 2

In New York, Steven Matz returned to New York with his finest outing in two years, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit his major league-leading 16th home run and Toronto beat the Yankees.

Corey Kluber (4-3), making his first start after pitching a no-hitter for the Yankees, had his outing cut short by shoulder tightness. The team said the two-time Cy Young Award winner will have a MRI.

Toronto stopped its six-game losing streak and the Yankees' six-game winning streak, improving to 5-2 against New York this season. Lourdes Gurriel Jr. and Randal Grichuk homered for Toronto, and Yankees shortstop Gleyber Torres made a two-run throwing error.

Matz (6-2) gave up one run and six hits in 6 2/3 innings, struck out 10 and walked none. The 29-year-old left-hander from Stony Brook, New York, won 11 games for the Mets in 2019 but faltered on an 0-5 record and 9.68 ERA last year.

Padres 7, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Joe Musgrove and three relievers combined on a two-hitter and San Diego got to Milwaukee ace Corbin Burnes by matching a season high with six stolen bases.

San Diego ran like crazy on a night when Burnes (2-4) was uncharacteristically wild and scored four runs against the right-hander in six innings, spiking his ERA from 1.79 to 2.33. Burnes, who opened the season with a record 58 strikeouts before walking anyone,

issued three free passes, hit a batter and threw a wild pitch.

Five of San Diego's stolen bases came with Burnes on the mound. The Padres are the only team to steal six bases in a game this season and have done it twice. No team has had seven steals since Washington against the Chicago Cubs on June 27, 2017.

Musgrove, who pitched a no-hitter April 9 vs. Texas, did not allow a hit until Lorenzo Cain's one-out single in the fifth, but he couldn't finish the inning. Tim Hill (3-2) relieved with the bases loaded and got the final out, then threw a perfect sixth.

Cubs 4, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Joc Pederson hit two home runs and Jake Arrieta beat Pittsburgh for the third time this season.

Arrieta (5-4) went five innings and gave up three runs — two earned — on five hits with seven strikeouts and one walk. Four Cubs relievers combined for four scoreless innings, with Craig Kimbrel working the ninth for his 10th save. The bullpen has allowed only one unearned run over its last 29 2/3 innings.

Chicago won for the seventh time in nine games and is 14-7 in May. Pittsburgh lost again in its first game back home following a 1-5 road trip.

Both of Pederson's longballs came off rookie Cody Ponce (0-1), who was recalled from Triple-A Indianapolis earlier in the day to make his first start of season and fourth of his career.

Braves 3, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Pablo Sandoval had three hits in his first game at Fenway Park since his disas-

trous tenure with Boston, and Charlie Morton pitched out of early trouble to lead Atlanta.

Sandoval, who was released in 2017 midway through the five-year, \$95 million contract he signed with Boston, was booed for every at-bat. But he responded with singles in his first three plate appearances before he grounded out meekly to third to start the eighth.

The 2012 World Series MVP lined one up the middle in the sixth to start the rally that chased Boston starter Garrett Richards (4-3), then scored to give the Braves a 3-1 lead.

Morton (3-2) allowed six of the first eight Boston batters to reach base, loading the bases in the first with nobody out and giving up a leadoff triple in the second. But the Red Sox managed only one run in the first two innings, and Morton retired 13 straight batters after Xander Bogaerts' third-inning single.

Tigers 4, Indians 1

In Detroit, Aaron Civale dominated Detroit again, taking a shutout into the ninth inning in Cleveland's victory.

Civale (7-1) improved to 6-0 with a 2.19 ERA in seven career starts against the Tigers, including three wins this season. He allowed one run, six hits and a walk in eight-plus innings.

James Karinchak allowed an RBI single to Jonathan Schoop in the ninth and walked Akil Baddoo to load the bases with one out. Willi Castro took a called third strike and Eric Haase flew out to give Karinchak his sixth save.

Tarik Skubal (2-6) took the loss despite a career-high nine strikeouts, allowing two runs, six

Tampa Bay Rays' Randy Arozarena reacts after being involved in a game-ending double play against the Kansas City Royals during a baseball game Tuesday, May 25, 2021, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

hits and a walk in five innings. Detroit has lost four straight.

Reds 2, Nationals 1

In Washington, Eugenio Suarez homered off Washington ace Max Scherzer (4-3) in his first career start as a leadoff hitter, Tyler Mahle allowed three hits in 5 1/3 scoreless innings and Cincinnati beat the Nationals.

Kyle Farmer also homered off Scherzer to go with Suarez's 10th of the season. Suarez still struck out three times—running his season total to 65—and is batting .150. Manager David Bell bumped him up in the lineup in hopes of changing those trends.

Tejay Antone worked 2 2/3 hitless innings or relief to follow Mahle (3-2).

Washington's Josh Bell belted his sixth homer in the ninth off Amir Garrett, and Lucas Sims got the final out for his second save.

Phillies 2, Marlins 0

In Miami, Vince Velasquez pitched three-hit ball for six innings, Rhys Hoskins homered and Philadelphia defeated Miami.

The Phillies won hours after putting slugger Bryce Harper on the 10-day injured list because of a bruised left forearm.

Scratched from his previous start because of finger discomfort on his pitching hand, Velasquez (2-0) struck out five and walked three. The right-hander continued a solid May, lowering his ERA this month to 1.17 in four starts and one relief outing.

Hoskins hit his 10th homer in the fourth, a two-run drive off Sandy Alcantara (2-4).

Twins 7, Orioles 4

In Minneapolis, Rob Refsnyder homered and doubled twice, Jorge Polanco also homered and Minnesota gave Baltimore its eighth straight loss.

Mitch Garver and Alex Kirilloff each doubled twice as the Twins cranked out eight extra-base hits to win their third in a row.

José Berríos (5-2) allowed one earned run on seven hits, striking out seven in 5 2/3 innings. Taylor Rogers got four outs for his third save.

Dean Kremer (0-5) gave up five runs on six hits with three walks over four innings. He also threw a pair of wild pitches that scored runs.

Packers say they won't let Rodgers situation distract them



Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers' teammates say the MVP's uncertain status won't distract them in their offseason preparations.

Rodgers hasn't been present for organized team activities this week following an ESPN report last month that he doesn't want to return to Green Bay. Rodgers was noncommittal about his future in an ESPN interview Monday night.

"I don't think it's going to be that much of a distraction," defensive tackle Kenny Clark said Tuesday. "We've got to control what we can control as a team, and we've just to come out, practice, handle business and play ball. You



In this Jan. 16, 2021, file photo, Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (12) runs with the ball during the team's NFL divisional playoff football game against the Los Angeles Rams in Green Bay, Wis.

the way I played last year. This is just kind of, I think, a spill-out of all that. But it is about the people, and that's the most important thing."

Rodgers went on to reference Curly Lambeau, Vince Lombardi, Bart Starr, Brett Favre, Reggie White and Mike Holmgren while talking about how "Green Bay has always been about the people."

LaFleur declined to comment on the issues Rodgers addressed while reiterating his hopes to have the three-time MVP back this fall. General manager Brian Gutekunst has said he has no plans to trade Rodgers, who has three years remaining on his contract.

"Aaron definitely knows how we feel about him, how he's such an important part to our football team, such an important part to our organization," LaFleur said. "We're just going to continue to try to work through this and hopefully can get him back in the building at some point."

Safety Adrian Amos was cautiously optimistic that Rodgers will remain with the Packers.

"I haven't heard him say anything other than that, so I expect him to be (back)," Amos said. "But like I said, I'm not going to go home and cry if something else happens. I'm just playing it day by day. But of course, you want one of the greatest, if not the greatest, quarterback ever on your team. You want him out here. But everybody has to go about their business. I'm not going to knock anybody for getting what they feel like they deserve."

Running back Aaron Jones signed a four-year, \$48 million contract to remain with the Packers less than two months before the news broke regarding Rodgers' disenchantment. Jones said he hadn't spoken with Rodgers beforehand about the quarterback's issues with the organization, but added that it likely wouldn't have impacted his decision to sign a long-term deal.

"This is home," Jones said. "This is where I love to be. I love the coaches, my teammates, the community, the system—everything. I feel like this is where I still would have been."

"Once I signed, we communicated. He told me congratulations. He was happy for me." (AP)

Little League meeting Saturday



The Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. will be holding a managers/coaches meeting this Saturday, May 29, to discuss details about a tournament this season.

The meeting is set for 10am at the conference room of the Department of Public Works' Grounds and Transportation office in Lower Base.

For more information, contact Mike Borja at 483-2526, Piding Tenorio at 285-1024, and Annie Flores at 285-1219. (PR)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	30	20	.600	—
Boston	29	20	.592	½
New York	28	20	.583	1
Toronto	24	23	.511	4½
Baltimore	17	31	.354	12

Central Division

Chicago	28	19	.596	
Cleveland	26	20	.565	½
Kansas City	23	23	.500	4½
Minnesota	19	29	.396	9½
Detroit	18	30	.375	10½

West Division

Oakland	28	22	.560	
Houston	26	22	.542	1
Seattle	23	26	.469	4½
Texas	22	28	.440	6
Los Angeles	21	27	.438	6

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	22	20	.524	—
Atlanta	24	24	.500	1
Philadelphia	24	25	.490	1½
Miami	23	25	.479	2
Washington	20	24	.455	3

Central Division

St. Louis	26	22	.542	—
Chicago	25	22	.532	½
Milwaukee	24	24	.500	2
Cincinnati	21	25	.457	4
Pittsburgh	18	29	.383	7½

West Division

San Diego	31	18	.633	—
Los Angeles	30	18	.625	½
San Francisco	29	19	.604	1½
Colorado	19	30	.388	12
Arizona	18	31	.367	13

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

know, we've got to leave that situation to the organization and Aaron."

Rodgers wasn't the only notable Packer missing from Tuesday's OTA session. Most of his receivers also weren't there, including All-Pro Davante Adams.

Packers coach Matt LaFleur said he didn't know whether it might have been a coordinated effort by the receivers to stay away.

"I've had individual conversations with each guy, but

never once has that come up," LaFleur said.

The NFL Players' Association has advised players against attending voluntary workouts while citing the risks inherent amid the pandemic.

Although Rodgers wasn't around, he still dominated discussions as Packers players spoke to reporters Tuesday. Many of the questions focused on the issues Rodgers addressed in the interview that ESPN aired Monday night.

"Love the coaching staff, love my teammates, love the fan base in Green Bay," Rodgers said in the interview. "An incredible 16 years. It's just kind of about a philosophy and maybe forgetting that it is about the people that make the thing go. It's about character, it's about culture, it's about doing things the right way."

"A lot of this was put in motion last year and the wrench was just kind of thrown into it when I won MVP and played

Registered participants for PauPau 5150 now at 40

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As the Paupau 5150 Taga Triathlon set for May 29 fast approaches, 40 individuals have committed to the participating in the event as of yesterday.

According to the Triathlon Association of the CNMI registration page, 40 individuals have already officially registered for the event that will feature a 1.5-km swim, 40-km bike, and 10-km run.

For those still interested in

participating, registration for the event officially ends today.

The swim route will be two laps out and back to the triangle buoy off Paupau Beach and the bike route will be two laps from Paupau Beach to Sea-Fix Inc., while the run will be from Paupau Beach to east of Last Command Post.

The Olympic-distance triathlon will have several categories including individual male, individual female, and

team relay men/women/mixed. The race will have a 6am start time.

The Top 3 finishers will receive cash prizes while the top overall for each age group will receive medals. Everyone who completes the course will also earn finisher's T-shirt.

Registration is \$70 for individuals and \$210 for team relay. Registration fee includes T-shirt and entrance to the awarding banquet that will be

held at Kensington Hotel.

TRAC is using the Paupau 5150 Taga Triathlon to raise funds to prepare CNMI triathletes as well as help in hosting the triathlon/aquathlon event for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games. Kensington Hotel and Michelob Ultra are the sponsors of the Paupau 5150 Taga Triathlon.

The Paupau 5150 Taga Triathlon registration and more details are available at [triathloncnmi.org](https://www.webscorer.com/register?raceid=234099) or at <https://www.webscorer.com/register?raceid=234099>.

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will be 100% ready to "crank it up."

"I would like to give a special shout-out to my wife and family for holding down the Crank Fort. I miss everyone back home and I can't wait to be in Saipan after the fight. Biba

Marianas," said Camacho.

Camacho's foe for the June 12 fight is Matt "The Steamroller" Frevola, who incidentally is the same fighter paired against the Team Oyama standout in the UFC Fight Night 173 in Las Vegas about a year ago before the former was pulled out from the schedule the last minute after his cornerman was

tested positive for COVID-19.

Nearly three months after missing the chance to challenge Frevola, it was Camacho's turn to withdraw from his duel against Brok "Chata Tuska" Weaver in the UFC Fight Night 177 after contracting the same virus.

With both fighters eager to return to the eight sides, Camacho is expecting a brawl in the three-

round bout against Frevola.

The Marianas pride holds a 22-9 record and dropped his last two UFC bouts—bowing to Beneil Dariush in UFC Fight Night 162 last Oct. 26, 2019 via submission (rear-naked choke) and Justine Jaynes (via TKO), who replaced Frevola in the UFC on ESPN 11 that took place last June 20, 2020 in Las Vegas.

Soledad Quan.

Kanoa tried to catch up with a goal from Ivann Gozum in the 37th minute but their efforts were lacking.

MASTERS DIVISION TanHoldings 1, Kanoa 0

TanHoldings will now vie for third place against Matansa after beating Kanoa. TanHoldings' Jessica Ortizo showed the way after scoring the only goal in the 58th minute.

DIVISION B MP United 2, Kanoa 1

MP United's Laarni Zapanta took the lead in the 28th minute followed by a goal from

Shirley's 4, TanHoldings 0

Shirley's was determined to make it to the finals, crushing their opponent behind three straight goals from Gabi Race.

Wally came from behind with a goal in the 37th and 39th minute to bring the game to a 2-2 tie.

Flores followed Wally's lead

NMBA

From Page 20

sence of regular tournaments for more than a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The last event that NMBA had was the IT&E Badminton Tournament in February 2020.

NMBA president Merlie Tolentino, on the other hand, added the season-opening competition will give the association the opportunity to drum up interest for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games where badminton is one of nine events on the sports program. Tournaments like this will also help NMBA prepare on the logistic and technical aspects of the hosting of the Mini Games.

"We will be needing volunteers, technical staff, referees, and umpires for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games and the series of tournaments that we are planning for this year and next will allow us to build local capacity that is very crucial in our efforts to successfully host the badminton tournament in the Mini Games," the NMBA president said.

The TanHoldings Badminton Team Tournament will also provide national players training for the Mini Games actual matches they must play to gauge the level of their readiness for the regional competition and see what they need to improve on. (PR)



Davis, Lakers bounce
back to beat Suns
109-102 in Game 2

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Packers say they won't
let Rodgers situation
distract them

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

All Paire finals in Dove masters

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

It's Paire against Paire in the upcoming finals match in the Masters Division of the 2021 Dove Spring Women's League this weekend.

Following the set of semi-final matches last weekend, Paire 2 gained the last finals seat to face the season's top seed and sister team, Paire 1.

Paire 2 and Matansa were neck and neck during last Sunday's match but a go-ahead goal from Arielle Buyum in the 48th minute secured them a 3-2 win, putting them a step closer to gaining the season's championship title.

During the matchup last weekend, Matansa started off



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Paire 2's Linda Anastacio pushes past Matansa's Ratree Ditiswet Frederick during their semifinals match last weekend at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

strong behind Alleny Tenorio who made a goal in the 19th minute, giving her team the upper hand. An on-goal from Paire

2 in the 27th minute brought Matansa to a 2-point lead, 2-0.

Despite the slow start and slip up in the first 30 minutes, Paire

2's Tanuja Edvalson turned the tables in their favor scoring two goals, one in the 30th minute followed by another in the

40th minute to bring the game to a 2-2 tie. Buyum came in clutch, landing the final goal for the game to bump Paire 2 to a

1-point lead, 3-2.

Meanwhile, Southern United and Shirley's will battle it out in the finals of both the A and B division.

Southern United took the second finals seat in Division B after a 1-0 victory against TanHoldings behind Rosie Saralu who scored the lone goal last Sunday. The semifinal winner will now vie for the championship against Shirley's who took the first finals seat via outright finals birth.

Contrary to Division B and the Master Division, Southern United and Shirley's took the finals seats after besting their opponents in their respective semifinals matches last Sunday.

DIVISION A Southern United 5, Kanoa 2

Britany Wally and Stephanie Flores tag-teamed to carry Southern United to the finals with two goals apiece with help from Kaithlyn Chavez who contributed a goal.

Kanoa took the lead in the
See PAIRE on Page 19

NMBA holds first tournament of season

The Northern Marianas Badminton Association will have its first competition of the 2021

season with the staging of the TanHoldings Badminton Team Tournament next month at the TSL Sports Complex.

Registration is ongoing for the June 5 and 6 tournament

and interested players who will represent NMBA's five clubs will be allowed to compete in the men's and women's singles and doubles, and mixed doubles events. So far, more than 50 players have signed up and deadline for registration is June 1. Sign up forms are available at the NMBA Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

NMBA vice president Nate Guerrero said registration for the TanHoldings and Tan Siu Lin Foundation-sponsored event is free and they would want to bring players back into the court and experience competition-level matches after the ab-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this file photo, Daniel Macario receives a shot from Chris Hilario during the lone tournament Northern Marianas Badminton Association conducted last year at the TSL Sports Complex. NMBA will have its first event for 2021 next when with the staging of the TanHoldings Badminton Team Tournament.



'The Crank' gears up for UFC 263

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REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho is buckling down on his training and is confident he will be ready to "crank it up" when he returns to the octagon cage as one of the undercards for Ultimate Fighting Championship 263 *Figueiredo vs Moreno 2* on June 12.

In a short interview with Camacho, he reports that he's about four to five weeks into his training camp that will last a total of eight weeks leading up to the fight on June 12.

When asked about what he is working on in terms of his training, Camacho said the focus is focus.

"The focus of this camp is focus. Focusing at the task at hand, focusing on details of camp, focusing on details, on strategy of the fight, and really focusing on the stuff I can control like training hard, nutrition, and technique," he said.

Camacho said he is confident that on fight night, he

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Frank "The Crank" as he trains for the Ultimate Fighting Championship 263 *Figueiredo vs Moreno 2* on June 12.